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Bureau of Land Management

BLM

DRAFT
Coeur d'Alene
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement

ID-410-2005-EIS-1059



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January 2006

COEUR D'ALENE FIELD OFFICE





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:
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January 2006

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS). The DRAFT RMP/EIS proposes and analyzes four alternatives for future management of approximately 96,770 acres of federal land in northern Idaho, that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Coeur d'Alene Field Office.

Please review the document and direct written comments to the address at the top of this letter, Attention: RMP; or email to ID_CDA_RMP@blm.gov. Comments will be most useful if they are specific, include suggested changes, mention page numbers where appropriate, and cite sources when applicable. Comment letters and emails must include your complete name, address, and phone number. We request this information in case we need clarification or have questions about your comments. BLM will not consider comments that do not include this information. Anonymous comments will not be considered. The public review period and comment period officially begins with publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and will last 90 days.

All comments that BLM receives, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Coeur d'Alene Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Final EIS. You may request confidentiality if you are commenting as an individual, but you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review in their entirety.

BLM will be holding public meetings to discuss the Draft RMP/EIS. Dates, times and locations of these meetings will be distributed in newsletters, announced in local news media, and posted on the project website (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cda/>).

Thank you for your participation in this planning effort. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Scott Pavey, RMP Project Manager, at (208) 769-5059.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Thomson
Field Manager

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

DRAFT

**Coeur d'Alene
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement**

ID-410-2005-EIS-1059

**Coeur d'Alene Field Office
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

January 2006

Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

1. **Responsible Agency:** United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
2. **Type of Action:** Administrative (X) Legislative ()
3. **Document Status:** Draft (X) Final ()
4. **Abstract:** This Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement describes and analyzes four alternatives for managing the public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Coeur d'Alene Field Office, located in northern Idaho, in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties. The plan alternatives are: Alternative A (the "no action" alternative or continuation of current management); Alternative B (commodity/utility emphasis); Alternative C (minimal active management/preservation emphasis); and Alternative D (the agency preferred alternative). Planning issues addressed include: opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized recreation (travel management); protecting resources while providing forest products and restoring forest health; protecting people and property from wildfire; adjusting land ownership; controlling invasive species and noxious weeds; and restoring healthy watersheds and riparian habitat. The draft alternatives also address designation of areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) and Wild and Scenic River suitability findings.
5. The review period on the Draft Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is 90 calendar days. The review period begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.
6. For further information contact:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this draft resource management plan (RMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) to provide direction for managing public lands under the jurisdiction of the Coeur d'Alene District, Coeur d'Alene Field Office (CdA FO) and to analyze the environmental effects resulting from implementing the alternatives addressed in this draft RMP.

The CdA planning area (planning area) is located entirely in the Panhandle Region of northern Idaho (Figure 1-1 and Map #1 in Volume III), and includes all land within this region regardless of ownership, totaling approximately 5,077,776 acres. About 96,770 acres, or 1.9 percent of the planning area, are administered by the BLM. BLM-administered lands within the CdA FO consist of numerous tracts ranging in size from less than one acre to over 10,000 acres. BLM-administered lands are mixed among private, State of Idaho, US Forest Service-administered, and Coeur d'Alene Tribal lands, each of which may be influenced or directly affected by BLM decisions. The decisions in the CdA RMP will only apply to the BLM-administered public lands within the planning area, which are referred to as the decision area. **Table ES-1** identifies the land status of the planning area by ownership.

Table ES-1. BLM-Administered Public Lands Within the Planning Area			
County	BLM Acres	Total Acres	BLM Percent of Total
Benewah	13,655	502,837	2.7
Bonner	12,139	1,227,920	1.0
Boundary	4,566	818,187	0.6
Kootenai	10,933	837,932	1.3
Shoshone	55,477	1,690,900	3.3
Planning Area Total	96,770	5,077,776	1.9

The RMP is being prepared using the BLM's planning regulations and guidance issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. BLM incorporates an EIS into its land use planning process to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), and requirements of the BLM's NEPA Handbook, H-1790-1.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The RMP is being prepared to provide the CDA FO with a comprehensive framework for managing lands in the planning area under jurisdiction of the BLM. The purpose of the RMP is to provide a public document that specifies overarching management policies and action on these lands. Implementation level planning and site-specific projects will be completed in conformance with the broad provisions of the RMP. A new RMP is needed to respond to changes in resource conditions, public demands, and regulations and policies, since the Management Framework Plan (1981) and its amendments were completed.

PLANNING PROCESS

The land use planning process is issue driven. Planning issues are disputes or controversies about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, production, and related management practices.

Scoping is a collaborative public involvement process to identify planning issues to be addressed. BLM conducted scoping for the CdA RMP from September 3 to November 15, 2004. A scoping report is available from the CdA FO upon request, or on the Internet at www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cda. From analyses of the existing situation and comments received during public scoping, the BLM identified six major planning issues:

Issue 1: *What opportunities will BLM provide for motorized and nonmotorized recreation, while protecting natural and cultural resources?*

Issue 2: *How will the BLM manage vegetation treatments and provide forest products, while providing fish and wildlife habitat and protecting water quality, native plant communities, old growth forest, and cultural resources?*

Issue 3: *How will BLM adjust land ownership to provide public benefits and improve access?*

Issue 4: *How will the BLM manage invasive plant species?*

Issue 5: *How will the BLM reduce the risk of harm or damage from wildland fire to the public and their property?*

Issue 6: *What strategies and priorities will BLM use to protect healthy watersheds or restore damaged watersheds and riparian areas?*

These issues drive the formulation of the plan alternatives, and addressing them has resulted in a range of management options presented in four alternatives.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

The basic goal of developing alternatives was to prepare different combinations of resource uses to address issues and to resolve conflicts among uses. Alternatives must meet the project purpose and need, must be reasonable, must provide a mix of resource protection, management use, and development, must be responsive to the issues (each issue must be addressed in at least one alternative), must meet the established planning criteria (Chapter 1), and must meet federal laws, regulations, and BLM planning policy. Four alternatives were developed and carried forward for detailed analysis in the draft RMP/EIS. Currently there are three wilderness study areas (WSAs) within the planning area. The RMP will not change this status, and, in accordance with current BLM land use planning policy, no new WSAs will be designated. All alternatives also call for the continued management of invasive species and noxious weeds through coordinated efforts in cooperative weed management areas.

Alternative A (No Action – Continue Current Management)

Alternative A is the continuation of current management. Referred to as the No Action Alternative, this alternative would continue present management practices based on the existing land use plan and plan amendments. Valid decisions contained in the 1981 Emerald Empire MFP would be implemented if not already completed. Direction contained in existing laws, regulations, policies, and standards would also continue to be implemented, sometimes superseding provisions of the 1981 MFP. The current levels, methods, and mix of multiple use management of public lands in the CdA FO area would continue, and resource values would generally receive attention at present levels.

Key components to Alternative A are as follows:

- Continued management of motorized recreation, with 65 percent of BLM lands remaining open to off-road travel and 162 acres closed to motorized vehicles.
- Emphasis on management of forest resources for commodity production, with a probable sale quantity of 3.7 MMBF per year. Protection of other resources is somewhat provided for in the MFP, but more so through current laws, regulations, and BLM policies.
- Management of special status species and their vegetation habitats to provide for their continued presence in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Continued management of existing special management areas. These include two areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC)/research natural areas (RNA) (2,901 acres) and five stream segments found eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) System. Allowable uses would be very limited within these areas.
- Management of land ownership adjustments emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with high economic resource values, lands that increase public access, and lands that would consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and commodity resources. Fire use is not an option.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat and watersheds through the provisions of the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH).

Alternative B (Commodity - Utility Emphasis)

Alternative B emphasizes active management for commodities, amenities, and services. Protection of other resources would be secondary to restoring healthy commercial forests. This alternative also emphasizes opportunities for developed and motorized recreation, hunting, and fishing.

Key components of Alternative B are as follows:

- Management of motorized recreation through retention of current closed areas and limiting travel within all remaining areas (99.8 percent of BLM lands) to designated roads and trails. Emphasis on maximizing miles of designated roads and trails.
- Emphasis on management of forest resources for commodity production, with a probable sale quantity of 5.1 MMBF per year. This alternative incorporates measures, in addition to those under Alternative A, to protect other resources and uses.
- Incorporation of conservation measures from threatened and endangered species recovery plans.
- Management would maintain existing ACEC/RNAs, but all eligible stream segments would be found unsuitable for inclusion in the National WSR System.
- Management of land ownership adjustments, similar to Alternative A, emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with high economic resource values, and lands that increase public access, provide recreation opportunities, or consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and commodity resources. Fire use for resource benefit may be considered within all areas outside of the WUI.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat and watersheds through the provisions of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH), a BLM strategy specific to the planning area derived from INFISH.

Alternative C (Minimal Active Management - Preservation Emphasis)

Alternative C includes management strategies to preserve and protect non-commodity resources (e.g., wildlife habitat, water quality, etc.) and de-emphasizes resource production goals for commodities. There would be much less active management of resources than under the other alternatives. Production of products from vegetation management in all habitats would be secondary to restoring healthy forest vegetation and riparian areas. This alternative emphasizes dispersed and nonmotorized recreation.

Key components to Alternative C are as follows:

- Management of motorized recreation through closure of an additional 149 acres and limiting travel within all remaining areas (99.7 percent of BLM lands) to designated roads and trails. Emphasis on minimizing miles of designated roads and trails to protect resources.
- Management of forest vegetation allows for an intermediate level of commodity production with a probable sale quantity of 880 MBF per year, while providing protection to other resources.
- Incorporation of conservation measures from threatened and endangered species recovery plans.
- Management creates 19 new ACECs (23,273 additional acres). All eligible stream segments would be found suitable for inclusion in the National WSR System.
- Management of land ownership adjustments emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with non-commodity resource values, and lands that increase public access, provide dispersed recreation opportunities, or consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and non-commodity resources. Fire use for resource benefit may be considered within all areas outside of the WUI.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat, and watersheds through the provisions of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH).

Alternative D (Preferred Alternative)

BLM believes that Alternative D represents the best mix and variety of management actions to resolve the planning issues and to achieve statutory requirements and policy goals. It is intended to balance management of commodity and non-commodity resources. This alternative was developed after a preliminary analysis of the first three alternatives. This alternative incorporates many management objectives and actions from the first three alternatives, and includes new management direction when deemed necessary. It also incorporates new information that became available after the first three alternatives were developed. As a result, some management direction under Alternative D provides more resource protection than Alternative C. This alternative also generally allows for more uses and active resource management than Alternative C, but less than Alternatives A or B.

Key components to Alternative D are as follows:

- Management of motorized recreation through closure of an additional 469 acres (primarily areas with identified hazardous materials) and limiting travel within all remaining areas (99.7 percent of BLM lands) to designated roads and trails. Miles of designated road are only slightly less than Alternative B, while still providing protection of other resources.
- Management of forest vegetation focuses on areas where natural disturbance (e.g., wildland fire, disease) has occurred, yielding a probable sale quantity of 4.4 MMBF per year.

- Incorporation of conservation measures from draft BLM state-wide plan amendments for federally listed species.
- Management creates three new ACECs/RNAs (357 additional acres). Four eligible stream segments would be found suitable for inclusion in the National WSR System. Suitability for the remaining eligible segment would be deferred until the Idaho Panhandles National Forests makes a determination for adjacent segments.
- Management of land ownership adjustments emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with both commodity and non-commodity resource values, and lands that increase public access, provide recreation opportunities, or consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and both commodity and non-commodity resources. Fire use for resource benefit may be considered within all areas outside of the WUI.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat, and watersheds through the provisions of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Alternative A would result in maintaining the current effect on local economies and businesses that depend on uses of BLM-administered public lands for tourism, recreation, and resource extraction. However, this alternative also has the greatest potential of any alternative to result in impacts to the physical and biological environment. Taking no action would prohibit the BLM from implementing management measures needed to both protect resources and address concerns related to growing recreational uses. Alternative B offers the greatest economic potential benefit. This alternative would also result in impacts to the physical and biological environment, but less so than Alternative A. Alternative C would have the least potential impact on physical and biological resources, but the greatest potential for adverse impacts on the local economies. Alternative D would allow for most uses to continue or increase, but would constrain certain activities in order to reduce potential impacts. Potential and magnitude of impacts under Alternative D would be between those from Alternatives B and C.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The BLM has coordinated and will continue to collaborate with the following Tribal Governments, state and federal agencies, and local governments during development of the RMP:

- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Salish and Kootenai Confederated Tribes
- Idaho State Governor's Office
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Commerce - Tourism Division
- Idaho Association of Highway Districts
- Benewah County Board of Commissioners

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- Bonner County Board of Commissioners
- Boundary County Board of Commissioners
- Kootenai County Board of Commissioners
- Shoshone County Board of Commissioners
- USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandles National Forest
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) to provide direction for managing public lands under the jurisdiction of the Coeur d'Alene District, Coeur d'Alene Field Office (CdA FO) in northern Idaho and to analyze the environmental effects that could result from implementing the alternatives presented in this plan. The affected lands are currently being managed under the Emerald Empire Management Framework Plan (MFP) (BLM 1981). Additional management direction is currently provided in 14 associated decision documents, including amendments and various resource guidance documents.

The land use planning process is the key tool used by the BLM to manage resources and to designate uses on public lands in coordination with Tribal, state, and local government, land users, and the interested public. Generally, an RMP does not result in a wholesale change of management direction. Accordingly, this RMP: 1) incorporates new information and regulatory guidance released since the previous plan and associated amendments, and 2) concentrates on providing management direction where it may be lacking or requiring clarification to resolve land use issues or conflicts. Current management direction that has proven effective and requires no change will be carried forward in this RMP and through the analysis process.

The RMP is being prepared using BLM planning regulations and guidance issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 US Code [USC] 1701 et seq.) and BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (BLM 2005a). An EIS is incorporated into this document to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) (CEQ 1978), and requirements of BLM's NEPA Handbook, H-1790-1 (BLM 1988).

1.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The RMP is needed to respond to changing ecological, socioeconomic, institutional, and regulatory conditions that have occurred since the approval of the Emerald Empire MFP in 1981 and the various amendments and decisions that have been approved from 1982 to 2005. Many new laws, regulations, and policies have created additional public land management considerations. As a result, some of the decisions in the MFP and the associated amendments and decisions are no longer valid, or these decisions have been superseded by requirements that did not exist when they were prepared. Likewise, user demands and impacts have evolved requiring new management direction.

The purpose of the Coeur d'Alene RMP is to provide a single, comprehensive land use plan that will guide management of the public lands and interests administered by the CdA FO. The plan provides objectives, land use allocations, and management direction to maintain, improve, or restore resource conditions and to provide for the economic needs of local communities over the long term. The RMP incorporates new data, addresses land use issues and conflicts, specifies where and under what circumstances particular activities will be allowed on public lands, and incorporates the mandate of multiple uses in accordance with FLPMA. The RMP does not describe how particular programs or projects would be implemented or prioritized; rather, those decisions are deferred to more detailed implementation-level planning.

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The CdA planning area (planning area) is in the Panhandle Region of northern Idaho (see Figure 1-1 below and Map #1 in Volume III) and encompasses the five northernmost Idaho counties: Boundary, Bonner,

1. Introduction

Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone. The planning area is bordered on the west by the Washington state line, on the north by the Canadian border, on the east by the Montana state line, and on the south by Latah and Clearwater Counties, Idaho.

The planning area includes all land within this region regardless of ownership, totaling approximately 5,077,776 acres. About 96,770 acres, or 1.9 percent of the planning area, are administered by the BLM. The decisions in the CdA RMP will only apply to the BLM-administered public lands within the planning area, which are referred to as the decision area. Table 1-1 identifies total and BLM-administered acreages and percentages of the planning area by county.

Table 1-1 BLM-Administered Public Lands Within the Planning Area			
County	BLM Acres	Total Acres	BLM Percent of Total
Benewah	13,655	502,837	2.7
Bonner	12,139	1,227,920	1.0
Boundary	4,566	818,187	0.6
Kootenai	10,933	837,932	1.3
Shoshone	55,477	1,690,900	3.3
Planning Area Total	96,770	5,077,776	1.9

BLM-administered lands within the planning area consist of numerous tracts ranging in size from less than one acre to over 10,000 acres. BLM-administered lands are mixed among private, State of Idaho, US Forest Service-administered, and Tribal lands, each of which may be influenced or directly affected by BLM decisions.



Figure 1-1. CdA Planning Area

BLM lands lie partially within the ceded territory of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. There are also about 180 acres of BLM-administered land within the current Coeur d'Alene reservation boundary. Other federally recognized tribes with aboriginal or historic ties to the area managed by the CdA FO include the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians currently located in Washington, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana.

Currently, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) is revising its forest plan for national forest lands, including those lands within the planning area. The BLM has coordinated, and will continue to coordinate, with the USDA

Forest Service and other federal and state agencies during the development of the RMP.

The topography within the planning area is diverse, ranging from river valleys to mountain peaks over 7,000 feet elevation. The majority of BLM-administered land lies between 2,500 and 4,500 feet. Coniferous forest covers most of the planning area, with mountain shrubs and grasslands covering a very small area. Major

rivers include the Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Pend Orielle, and St. Joe. Lakes are an important feature of the planning area and include Coeur d'Alene, Pend Oreille, Priest, and the chain lakes.

The Wallace area (Shoshone County) has mineral deposits of national importance. Two large silver mines (Lucky Friday and the Galena) continue to operate here, and a large portion of the working population is employed in some sort of mining activity. Similarly, the towns of St. Maries (Benewah County), Coeur d'Alene (Kootenai County), Bonners Ferry (Boundary County), and Sandpoint (Bonner County) support several sawmills.

1.4 SCOPING AND PLANNING ISSUES

1.4.1 Scoping Process

Early in the planning process, the public was invited to help the BLM identify planning issues and concerns relating to the management of BLM-administered public lands and resources/uses in the planning area. The formal scoping period began with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on September 3, 2004. The scoping period for receipt of public comments ended November 14, 2004, which provided 73 days for comment submittal.

BLM encouraged public participation during the scoping period through a newsletter, announcements in local news media, public meetings, and its project Web site. The newsletter described the planning process, solicited readers to submit comments, and announced public meeting dates and locations. It was mailed to more than 200 interested members of the public, local and Tribal governments, and federal and state agencies. Announcements in local news media also provided information on public meetings and solicited comments. BLM shared more detailed information about the RMP and planning process during five public meetings held at various locations throughout the planning area. The Web site at www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cda (previously www.cdarmpp.com) provided background information, supporting documents, and directions for obtaining information and submitting comments. Detailed information about scoping, and the results can be found in the Scoping Report (BLM 2005b), which is available on the project Web site or at the CdA FO.

1.4.2 Planning Issues

The land use planning process is issue driven. Planning issues are disputes or controversies about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, production, and related management practices. Scoping is a collaborative public involvement process to identify planning issues to be addressed. BLM conducted scoping for the CdA RMP from September 3 to November 15, 2004. A scoping report is available from the CdA FO upon request, or on the Internet at www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cda. From analyses of the existing situation and comments received during public scoping, the BLM identified six major planning issues. A summary of these six issues follows:

Issue 1: What opportunities will BLM provide for motorized and nonmotorized recreation, while protecting natural and cultural resources?

BLM received more scoping comments on recreation and public access than any other topic. This issue highlights a concern that many have about the damage that recreational activities often cause to other resources (e.g., riparian areas, wildlife habitat, water quality, cultural sites, etc.). It also refers to the public concern about access to their public lands and conflicts that occur among differing types of recreational uses.

Many respondents requested that the BLM maintain or improve public access for recreational use on public lands, while others expressed concern that many types of recreational use can cause damage to other

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resources. Motorized and nonmotorized uses can damage wildlife habitat and can adversely affect water quality by damaging riparian plant communities and by causing soil erosion. Recreational use can also damage important cultural resources, including those of spiritual or traditional value to Native Americans. Some respondents suggested that the BLM limit types of access or use in sensitive areas. However, such restrictions may conflict with the public demand for more recreational access. To address these concerns, some have suggested that the BLM develop a looped trail system with existing routes, alleviating the need to backtrack or travel cross-country; provide maps and signs to delineate riding areas, which would discourage travel through environmental sensitive areas; provide interpretive areas and overlooks; and develop new routes to relocate existing routes causing resource damage.

A great number of comments agreed that maintaining or improving access to public lands, including access across them to lakes and waterways, should be a priority; however, user group conflicts were apparent, primarily demonstrated by the different levels of restrictions and access desired for motorized and nonmotorized recreation. Public comments indicate that there is a great demand for motorized (OHV) use on the public lands. One reason mentioned for keeping roads and trails open to motorized access included the need for equal access to the resource for people of all ages and abilities. OHVs include various four-wheel drive vehicles (jeeps, ATVs, etc.), two wheel vehicles (motorcycles), and snowmobiles. BLM recognizes that the types of roads or desired settings, and the impacts to the environment, differ among types of vehicles. This is especially true when comparing snowmobiles to other OHVs. Consideration of opportunities for nonmotorized recreational uses (i.e., mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing) and potential conflicts among these types of uses, and with motorized use, make the situation more complex. There is also a difference of opinion among all types of recreational users regarding the setting. Some say that BLM should provide more developed facilities, while others desire more primitive settings. Some comments suggest that BLM should develop or maintain its existing road and trail system while allowing for segregation of users through route or area designations. Some also recommended that BLM attempt to link its roads and trails to other public trail systems to increase opportunities. Improving signage and availability of maps to reduce user conflicts was also a common suggestion.

Issue 2: How will the BLM manage vegetation treatments and provide forest products, while providing fish and wildlife habitat and protecting water quality, native plant communities, old growth forest, and cultural resources?

The BLM manages the health of its lands, including fish and wildlife habitat, fisheries, and special status species habitat, and provides for sometimes conflicting uses, such as logging, grazing, and recreation. Certain public groups or individuals suggested that the BLM should emphasize conservation over extractive commodities, while others conversely advocated for the BLM to balance the needs of both uses.

Vegetation treatments include fuel reductions, stewardship projects, and commercial harvesting. There were also many concerns regarding habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, water quality degradation relevant to aquatic species and their habitats, the effects of exotic species on wildlife sustainability, and road impacts to neighboring habitats. Many of the comments received during the scoping period expressed concern about past and present forest and fire management actions. The public recognizes the need for fuel reduction and protection of the Wildland Urban Interface. Wildlife habitat includes those areas necessary to meet the life history requirements of terrestrial, aquatic, and special status species. Riparian areas are key components of wildlife habitat and are directly tied to water quality. It is important to the public to maintain

diverse and healthy vegetative components for fish, wildlife, and rare plant populations, riparian areas, water and air quality, and cultural and Tribal interests.

There were a few comments that identified forestry-related issues. The specific forestry-related issues were fire management, the need for forest management and forest inventory, restoration and sustainability of old-growth timber stands, and a desire to see commercial timber harvesting in the planning area. Those comments that mentioned forest management indicated that forested areas lacked natural fire regimes and that controlled burns should be examined as a management tool. Several comments indicated the need for a more complete forest management strategy, including old-growth inventory and management. Comments also pointed out the mandate for sustained yield, a need for cooperation between forest landholders, and the possibility of commercial timber harvests in the planning area. Forest management was also described as potentially beneficial to watershed, wildlife, and livestock management.

One of the issues addressed was the need to minimize conflict between fish and wildlife habitat and other resources. Many comments identified recreation, commercial forest production, and mineral development as uses that have potential wildlife conflicts. These comments suggested that the RMP identify ways to limit these impacts through closures or restrictions. The letters requested that the best available data and science be used to determine the nature and extent of wildlife conflict before management decisions are made. Other comments addressed the need to manage for and protect native species. Many individuals requested that all special status species in the planning area be given significant management attention in the RMP. Some comments focused on limiting the amount of management attention paid to nonnative species' habitat management, as well as avoiding the introduction of new nonnative species.

Comments specifically mentioned a need for management attention towards threatened and endangered (T&E) species, native fish species, groups of species, or types of habitats to be evaluated or designated. Many of the comments received during the scoping period expressed concern about fish and wildlife habitat, fisheries, and special status species protection and restoration, water quality degradation relevant to aquatic species, the effects of vegetation management on wildlife sustainability, and roadway and roadless area impacts on neighboring habitats. The public suggested specific management actions or management paradigms. Concerns were expressed over the quality of data to be used in the plan.

Commentors stated their concern about water quality being negatively impacted by resource uses in the area. Other comments stated that water quality might actually be improving and that activities permitted in the past should be allowed to continue. Specific activities mentioned in relation to water quality included water development, recreation, mining, roads, and timber harvest. Many of these comments stated that the impacts to water quality from these resource uses were minimal and easily managed, while other comments of this type explained that past impacts in the planning area have been substantial and should be kept to a minimum from the various resource uses.

Cultural resources include traditional uses by Native American Tribes, as well as historic sites and artifacts. Management actions also need to protect municipal water supplies and protect traditional practices. Comments included the request that BLM conduct inventories to determine the distribution, comparative importance, and relative sensitivity of cultural resources and to allocate their potential use in interpretation, education, scientific research, and maintenance of cultural traditions and religion. Respondents also asked that BLM adopt management actions necessary to protect and restore cultural sites or areas that are most vulnerable to current and future impacts and expressed concern about unauthorized collection and vandalism.

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Specific concerns were expressed regarding the potential for direct effects and visual intrusions on a known traditional cultural property and the need to maintain confidentiality of resource locations.

Issue 3: How will BLM adjust land ownership to provide public benefits and improve access?

Because of the scattered land ownership patterns found in northern Idaho, the issue of land tenure is a fundamental concern of the public and neighboring landowners. Land tenure includes retained and acquired lands and those available for exchange. Comments received supported the need to evaluate the scattered land ownership patterns; however, the comments expressed concern that access and commercial uses may be limited, restricted, or otherwise changed as a result of future land exchanges. Some comments asked that land exchanges be sought only when they supported resource conservation. In this regard, land tenure may be used as a mechanism or mitigation to isolate and protect certain watersheds, wildlife, plants, or other sensitive resources. Land tenure opportunities were otherwise interpreted as a tool to provide further access or public land use availability. For example, many isolated parcels provide valuable recreation access to water. The BLM will evaluate the potential effects of any land tenure decisions on public benefits, including access to lakes, waterways, and contiguous land parcels previously obstructed by private or alternate land ownership and recreational opportunities (especially the availability of trails). These resources will be considered for retention or swap with other public agencies. The BLM will work cooperatively with other relevant agencies to highlight some of these opportunities and to develop consistent plans for effective management of the lands. Many specific land areas were recommended for future land acquisition consideration, which may be considered under the implementation phase of the RMP.

Issue 4: How will the BLM manage invasive plant species?

A large component of vegetation management is the control of invasive and exotic plant species. Management of noxious weeds and exotic species was a primary concern by the public. Specifically, the effects of other resources (e.g., water quality, fuels management, wilderness, and wildlife), as well as the contribution of other activities (e.g., recreational activities and vehicular access) on the spread of weeds and exotic species. Most comments focused on how, when, and where noxious weeds and other invasive species would be controlled in the planning area and what conditions would apply to other resource activities to prevent further invasions in the planning area.

Issue 5: How will the BLM reduce the risk of harm or damage from fire to the public and their property?

Comments regarding fire management focused on several issues, including restoration of the natural historical fire regime, restoration of lands from fire damage, prescribed burns, fire control and management in the WUI, air quality, and removal of dead and dying timber to reduce fuel loads. An updated fire management plan was requested (a temporary fire plan has been completed to meet the direction of the National Fire Plan, but this plan will be superseded by the Record of Decision that will implement the decisions contained in the Final CdA RMP). There was also a request from a representative of the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to integrate the National Fire Plan policies into the RMP.

Issue 6: What strategies and priorities will BLM use to protect healthy watersheds or restore damaged watersheds and riparian areas?

The BLM must ensure a watershed approach to land and resource management that emphasizes assessing the function and condition of watersheds, incorporating watershed goals in planning, enhancing pollution

prevention, monitoring and restoring watersheds, recognizing waters of exceptional value, and expanding collaboration with other agencies, states, tribes, and communities. Specifically, the BLM is required to provide for enhanced watershed restoration efforts, including the integration of watershed restoration as a key part of land management planning and program strategies. Also, considering that CdA FO manages land adjacent to high quality waters, BLM is in the position to protect important watersheds. Several comments were received pertaining to water quality and watershed restoration, which resulted in designation of a new issue theme to be considered during the Resource Management Planning process. Watershed issues are further discussed in Section 3.2.4.

Riparian areas are directly tied to water quality and habitat sustainability. It is important to the public to maintain diverse and healthy vegetative components for fish, wildlife, and rare plant populations, riparian areas, water and air quality, and cultural and Tribal interests. Some comments requested fish and wildlife habitat and watershed restoration efforts to be incorporated into the planning process, especially for those areas determined to be critical habitats. A request was received for a listing of impaired water bodies that do not currently meet Idaho Water Quality Standards. One comment encouraged BLM to identify high quality watersheds needing protection and impaired watersheds needing restoration/remediation. The public also requested restrictions be placed on activities that may contribute to adverse impacts on water resources. Other comments suggested that the BLM consider incorporating riparian and wetland area protection as part of the protection of associated watersheds.

The mixed ownership of the planning area is interpreted to be a contributing factor to damaging watersheds. Water quality and watershed degradation from mixed land uses, roads, recreational activities, and commercial uses are major concerns.

1.4.3 Issues Considered Beyond the Scope of the RMP

During scoping, several concerns were raised that are beyond the scope of this planning effort or that represented questions on how the BLM would go about the planning process and implementation. The Scoping Report (BLM 2005b) provides a comprehensive list of these issues, which are summarized below:

Global Warming and Carbon Sequestering. Analysis of the effect of global warming on vegetation composition and the value of forests as a reservoir to sequester carbon is beyond the scope of the RMP.

Historical fisheries. The RMP will consider protection and restoration of fisheries currently federally listed under the Endangered Species Act and those with BLM special species status. Restoration of historical fisheries that are now functionally extinct is beyond the scope of this RMP. BLM manages habitat rather than populations and does not have the authority to determine what species will or should be reintroduced. The RMP may identify areas or parameters to be considered when other agencies propose fisheries management activities.

Implementation of cost analysis/cost recovery program to require special use permittees and commercial operators to pay for monitoring to prevent resource damage. This issue is beyond the scope of the RMP. Cost recovery for monitoring is required by regulation for some program areas such as ROWs.

Compensation of individuals or entities physically harmed by federal actions, including negative impacts on the local government tax base. This issue is beyond the scope of the RMP.

Inventory roadless areas and examine areas as suitable for wilderness designation or for the protection of other special values. At this time the BLM cannot propose any additional Wilderness Study

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Areas (WSAs). Designations of proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are evaluated in the RMP. The RMP will also examine direction in terms of what areas would be closed, restricted to designated trails or roads, or open. A travel management plan that would provide specific route designations would be prepared after the travel management direction is approved as part of this RMP.

1.5 PLANNING CRITERIA

In accordance with 43 CFR 1610.4-2, BLM prepared planning criteria to guide development of the resource management plan, to ensure that it is tailored to the issues, and to prevent unnecessary data collection and analysis. The NOI published in the Federal Register and the RMP newsletter distributed during the scoping period listed these criteria and solicited comments. BLM also discussed the criteria and asked for comments during the public scoping meetings. However, BLM received no comments on the criteria during the scoping period. Therefore the following criteria remain as originally published in the NOI:

1. The plan will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and current policies. This includes local, state, Tribal, and federal air quality standards, as well as water quality standards from the Idaho Non-Point Source Management Program Plans.
2. The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and Federal Regulations.
3. All previously established Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed for wilderness values and character until Congress designates them as wilderness areas or releases them for multiple use management.
4. The RMP will recognize all valid existing rights.
5. As part of this RMP process, BLM will analyze areas for potential designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7-2 and river corridors for suitability for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

1.6 PLANNING PROCESS

In accordance with 43 CFR 1610.4, preparation of an RMP involves interrelated steps as described in Table 1-2 below.

Table 1-2 BLM Planning Process		
BLM Planning Process Step	Description	Timeframe
Step 1 – Planning Issues Identification	Issues and concerns are identified through a scoping process that includes the public, Indian tribes, other federal agencies, and state and local governments.	September 2004 – January 2005
Step 2 – Planning Criteria Development	Planning criteria are created to ensure decisions are made to address the issues pertinent to the planning effort. Planning criteria are derived from a variety of sources including applicable laws and regulations, existing management plans, coordination of other agencies' programs, and the results of public and agency scoping. The planning criteria may be updated and changed as planning proceeds.	September 2004
Step 3 – Data and Information Collection	Data and information for the resources in the planning area are collected based on the planning criteria.	Ongoing
Step 4 – Management Situation Analysis	The current management of resources in the planning area is assessed.	January 2005
Step 5 – Alternatives Formulation	A range of reasonable management alternatives that address issues identified during scoping is developed.	August 2005
Step 6 – Alternatives Assessment	The effects of each alternative are estimated.	October 2005
Step 7 – Preferred Alternative Selection	The alternative that best resolves planning issues is identified as the preferred alternative.	October 2005
Step 8 – Resource Management Selection	First, a draft RMP/EIS is issued and is made available to the public for a review period of 90 calendar days. After comments to the draft document have been received and analyzed, the RMP/EIS is modified as necessary, and the proposed RMP/Final EIS is published and made available for public review for 30 calendar days. A ROD is signed to approve the RMP/EIS.	Draft RMP/EIS: January 2006
		Proposed RMP/Final EIS: Estimated August 2006
		ROD: Estimated March 2007
Step 9 – Implementation Monitoring	Management measures outlined in the approved plan are implemented on the ground, and future monitoring is conducted to test their effectiveness. Changes are made as necessary to achieve desired results.	Ongoing after RMP approval

1.7 RELATIONSHIP TO BLM POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS

Since the development and approval of the 1981 Emerald Empire MFP, it has been necessary to amend the plan to provide additional broad land management direction. As the land use plan guidance is put into practice on the ground, implementation-level planning is directed by BLM policy and program-specific guidance. Table 1-3 identifies a number of plans, and decision and analytical documents have been developed by the BLM that relate to or otherwise govern management within the planning area. Some of these plans and documents amended the MFP, while others, though they have not been formally adopted through the land use planning process, are considered by BLM when conducting implementation-level planning or when analyzing other specific actions. These documents and other major management guidance are listed below by category.

Table 1-3 Identification of Coeur d'Alene Plan Amendments and Other Documents Considered for Implementation-Level Planning

Land Use Plans and Amendments	Other National, Statewide, District, or Field Office Decision and Analytical Documents
Emerald Empire Planning Unit Management Framework Plan, Step 3 - Decisions (BLM 1981)	North Idaho Timber Management Program Record of Decision (BLM 1982a)
Land Tenure Adjustment (LTA) MFP Amendment (BLM 1984)	North Idaho Range Management Program Summary Report (BLM 1982b)
Designation Order (Order No. ID060-4 - Designation of Hideaway Islands RNA) (BLM 1985)	North Idaho Draft MFP Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (Wilderness Study Areas) (BLM 1982c)
Land Tenure Adjustment (LTA) Plan Amendment for the Emerald Empire and Chief Joseph MFPs (BLM 1989a)	Record of Decision (ROD), Vegetation Treatment on the BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, BLM Idaho (BLM 1991)
Plan Amendment for the Emerald Empire and Chief Joseph MFPs to Designate 12 Areas as Research Natural Areas (RNA) and/or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) (BLM 1989b)	Update to MFPs to include Land Acquisition Management Guidelines (BLM 1993)
Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho, Emerald Empire Resource Area Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Designations (1990)	Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impacts (DR/FONSI), Coeur d'Alene District Programmatic Noxious Weed Control, EA No. ID060-94-05 (BLM 1994)
Record of Decision, Secretary of the Interior (Recommendations for WSAs in the State of Idaho) (OSOI 1991)	Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 1997)
	Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 2004a)
	Coeur d'Alene Field Office Fire Management Plan (BLM 2004b)

1.8 RELATED PLANS

BLM planning regulations require that BLM plans be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related plans of other federal, state, local, and Tribal governments to the extent those plans are consistent with federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands. Plans formulated by federal, state, local, and Tribal governments that relate to management of lands and resources have been reviewed and considered as the RMP/EIS has been developed. These plans include the following:

- Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project: Project Data (Forest Service and BLM 2001);
- Interior Columbia Basin Final EIS (Forest Service and BLM 2000);
- Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (Forest Service and USFWS 2000);
- Summary of the Draft EIS, Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment (BLM and Forest Service 2004);
- Inland Native Fish Strategy Environmental Assessment Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (Forest Service 1995b);
- Best Management Practices for Mining in Idaho (IDDL 1992);
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Final Area Wide Risk Management Plan (IDEQ 2004b);
- A View to the Future: A Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan for Idaho (SHPO 2002);
- Proposed Plan Amendments and EIS for Small Wilderness Study Areas, Statewide (BLM 1988d); and
- Idaho's 2003 – 2007 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (Idaho State Parks and Recreation 2003).

1.9 OVERALL VISION

The overall vision for the planning process is derived from the BLM mission statement: Sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES

CHAPTER 2 – ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the alternatives that describe different approaches to management of public land resources and uses in the planning area. This chapter also contains an explanation of the alternative development process. Each alternative is composed of a complete and reasonable set of desired outcomes, and allowable uses and management actions to achieve these outcomes.

Desired outcomes are expressed as “goals” and “objectives” in the alternatives. Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes that are not quantifiable. Goals are common to all alternatives.

Objectives identify specific desired outcomes for resources and are usually quantifiable and measurable. Objectives establish timeframes for achievement when appropriate. Objectives may or may not vary among alternatives.

Allowable uses and management actions are expressed as “actions” in the alternatives. Actions identify uses or allocations that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited on public lands. Actions also identify proactive measures to achieve goals and objectives, as well as measures or criteria to guide activities on public lands. Actions may or may not vary among alternatives.

BLM developed four management alternatives (“No Action” and three “Action” alternatives) which are presented in detail in this chapter. These alternatives provide a range of choices for resolving the planning issues identified in Chapter 1.

2.2 HOW TO READ THIS CHAPTER

Chapter 2 begins with introductory materials regarding the development of the alternatives for the Coeur d’Alene RMP/EIS, followed by a general narrative description of the alternatives. Two in-depth tables detailing the desired future conditions, management objectives, and management actions for each alternative follow the narrative sections. The tables include the following:

- Management Guidance for All Alternatives (Table 2-1); and
- Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences (Table 2-2).

Table 2-1 compares the alternatives and details the management guidance for each alternative; it is organized into the following four categories:

- Resources (e.g., Fish and Wildlife, Vegetation);
- Resource Uses (e.g., Livestock Grazing, Recreation);
- Special Designations; and
- Social and Economics.

Table 2-2 summarizes the impacts and differences between alternatives resulting from implementation of each alternative. The effects of the various management actions in each alternative are discussed in detail in the environmental consequences section presented in Chapter 4.

2.2 How to Read This Chapter

Acreage and other numbers used in the alternatives are approximate and serve for comparison and analytic purposes only. Acreages are only estimates based on the most current available data. Readers should not infer that acreages reflect exact measurements or precise calculations.

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The goal in formulating alternatives for an RMP and EIS is to identify combinations of management practices to resolve planning issues and provide guidance where direction for a resource or use is currently lacking or is insufficient in the existing planning documents. Each alternative is to represent a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary land use plan. As discussed in Chapters 1 and 5, the CdA FO interdisciplinary team (IDT) used a collaborative approach in developing the alternatives.

The IDT implemented the first five steps of the BLM Planning Process (see Chapter 1, Section 1.6) in developing alternatives: issue identification, planning criteria development, scoping, data collection, and assessment of current management.

The issue identification and assessment of current management process began in 2004 with an extensive review by the IDT of current land management decisions/direction from the Emerald Empire Planning Unit Management Framework Plan (MFP), Step 3 (1981) and other current resource management decisions/direction for the planning area (see Chapter 1, Section 1.9). The IDT compiled these decisions/directions into the “No Action” alternative.

This resulted in: (1) the identification of key direction for resources/uses that could be carried forward into a new plan, and (2) the identification of resources/uses that need new management direction to address current laws, regulations, and policies, or to respond to changes in conditions on the public lands managed by the CdA FO (Figure 1-1).

2.3.1 Alternatives Developed

Four management alternatives were developed to address the major planning issues. Each alternative provides direction for resource programs based upon the development of specific goals and objectives and management actions. Each alternative describes specific issues influencing land management and emphasizes a different combination of resource uses, allocations, and restoration measures to address issues and resolve conflicts among users. Resource program goals are met in varying degrees across alternatives. Management scenarios for programs not tied to major planning issues and/or mandated by laws and regulations often contain few or no differences in management between alternatives. Alternatives may result in different long-term conditions, and objectives established may take longer than the life of the plan to achieve.

Alternative A, the “No Action” Alternative, is a continuation of the current management and is based on existing planning decisions and amendments.

The IDT initially developed two “Action” alternatives: one emphasizing commodity production (Alternative B), and the other emphasizing minimum active management and preservation (Alternative C). All of the organizations that BLM had coordinated with (see list in Chapter 1, Section 1.7) were then invited to participate in development of a fourth alternative. The Shoshone County Commissioners and two state agencies (Idaho Departments of Fish and Game, and Parks and Recreation) expressed interest. BLM asked them to review copies of the first three preliminary draft alternatives, and provide suggestions for a fourth alternative. BLM also asked the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) to review the preliminary draft alternatives and provide suggestions.

The IDT developed the fourth alternative (Alternative D), based on consideration of the planning issues, suggestions received, potential environmental impacts from the first three alternatives, statutory and regulatory requirements, and policy goals. BLM selected the fourth alternative as the “preferred alternative” because it represented the best mix and variety of management actions and direction to address all of these considerations.

2.4 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

2.4.1 Alternative A (No Action – Continue Current Management)

Alternative A is the continuation of current management. Referred to as the No Action Alternative, this alternative would continue present management practices based on the existing land use plan and plan amendments. Valid decisions contained in the 1981 Emerald Empire MFP would be implemented if not already completed. Direction contained in existing laws, regulations, policies, and standards would also continue to be implemented, sometimes superseding provisions of the 1981 MFP. The current levels, methods, and mix of multiple use management of public lands in the CdA FO area would continue, and resource values would generally receive attention at present levels.

Key components of Alternative A are as follows:

- Continued management of motorized recreation with 65 percent of BLM lands remaining open to offroad travel, and 162 acres remaining closed to motorized vehicles.
- Emphasis on management of forest resources for commodity production, with a probable sale quantity of 3.7 MMBF per year. Protection of other resources is somewhat provided for in the MFP, but more so through current laws, regulations, and BLM policies.
- Management of special status species and their vegetation habitats to provide for their continued presence in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Continued management of existing special management areas. These include two areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC)/research natural areas (RNA) (2,901 acres) and five stream segments found eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) System. Allowable uses would be very limited within these areas.
- Management of land ownership adjustments emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with high economic resource values, lands that increase public access, and lands that would consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and commodity resources. Fire use is not an option.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat and watersheds through the provisions of the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH).

2.4.2 Alternative B (Commodity-Utility Emphasis)

Alternative B emphasizes active management for commodities, amenities, and services. Protection of other resources would be secondary to restoring healthy commercial forests. This alternative also emphasizes opportunities for developed and motorized recreation, hunting, and fishing.

Key components of Alternative B are as follows:

- Management of motorized recreation through retention of current closed areas and limiting travel within all remaining areas (99.8 percent of BLM lands) to designated roads and trails. Emphasis on maximizing miles of designated roads and trails.
- Emphasis on management of forest resources for commodity production, with a probable sale quantity of 5.1 MMBF per year. This alternative incorporates measures, in addition to those under Alternative A, to protect other resources and uses.

- Incorporation of conservation measures from threatened and endangered species recovery plans.
- Management would maintain existing ACECs/RNAs, but all eligible stream segments would be found unsuitable for inclusion in the National WSR System.
- Management of land ownership adjustments, similar to Alternative A, emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with high economic resource values, and lands that increase public access, provide recreation opportunities, or consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and commodity resources. Fire use for resource benefit may be considered within all areas outside of the wildland-urban interface (WUI).
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat and watersheds through the provisions of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH), a BLM strategy specific to the planning area derived from INFISH.

2.4.3 Alternative C (Minimal Active Management/Preservation Emphasis)

Alternative C includes management strategies to preserve and protect noncommodity resources (e.g., wildlife habitat, water quality, etc.) and to deemphasize resource production goals for commodities. There would be much less active management of resources than under the other alternatives. Production of products from vegetation management in all habitats would be secondary to restoring healthy forest vegetation and riparian areas. This alternative emphasizes dispersed and nonmotorized recreation.

Key components of Alternative C are as follows:

- Management of motorized recreation through closure of an additional 149 acres and limiting travel within all remaining areas (99.7 percent of BLM lands) to designated roads and trails. Emphasis on minimizing miles of designated roads and trails to protect resources.
- Management of forest vegetation allows for an intermediate level of commodity production with a probable sale quantity of 4.4 MMBF per year, while providing protection to other resources.
- Incorporation of conservation measures from threatened and endangered species recovery plans.
- Management creates 19 new ACECs (23,273 additional acres). All eligible stream segments would be found suitable for inclusion in the National WSR System.
- Management of land ownership adjustments emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with noncommodity resource values, and lands that increase public access, provide dispersed recreation opportunities, or consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and noncommodity resources. Fire use for resource benefit may be considered within all areas outside of the WUI.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat and watersheds through the provisions of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH).

2.4.4 Alternative D (Preferred Alternative – Balanced Emphasis)

BLM selected Alternative D as the preferred alternative because it represents the best mix and variety of management actions to resolve the planning issues, and achieve statutory requirements and policy goals. It is intended to balance management of commodity and noncommodity resources. This alternative was developed after a preliminary analysis of the first three alternatives. This alternative incorporates many management objectives and actions from the first three alternatives, and includes new management direction when deemed necessary. It also incorporates new information that became available after the first three alternatives were

2.4 Description of Alternatives

developed. As a result, some management direction under Alternative D provides more resource protection than Alternative C. This alternative also generally allows for more uses and active resource management than Alternative C but less than Alternatives A or B.

Key components of Alternative D are as follows:

- Management of motorized recreation through closure of an additional 469 acres (primarily areas with identified hazardous materials) and limiting travel within all remaining areas (99.7 percent of BLM lands) to designated roads and trails. Miles of designated road are only slightly less than Alternative B, while still providing protection of other resources.
- Management of forest vegetation focuses on areas where natural disturbance (e.g., wildland fire, disease) has occurred, yielding a probable sale quantity of 880 MBF per year.
- Incorporation of conservation measures from draft BLM statewide plan amendments for federally listed species.
- Management creates three new ACECs/RNAs (357 additional acres). Four eligible stream segments would be found suitable for inclusion in the National WSR System. Suitability for the remaining eligible segment would be deferred until the Idaho Panhandle National Forests makes a determination for adjacent segments.
- Management of land ownership adjustments emphasizes retention and acquisition of lands with both commodity and noncommodity resource values, and lands that increase public access, provide recreation opportunities, or consolidate federal holdings.
- Management of wildland fire to protect people, property, and both commodity and noncommodity resources. Fire use for resource benefit may be considered within all areas outside of the WUI.
- Protection of fish and riparian habitat and watersheds through the provisions of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH).

Table 2-1. Management Guidance for All Alternatives

Resources

Air Quality (AQ)

Goal AQ-1 – Comply with existing laws and regulations to meet health and safety requirements.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
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Objective AQ-1.1.1 – Manage prescribed fire and wildland fire use in a manner to minimize degradation of the airshed.

Action AQ-1.1.1.1 – Manage wildland fire, to include prescribed fire, while meeting federal and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) air quality and opacity standards and follow related regulations.

Action AQ-1.1.1.2 – Include minimization of impacts to air quality as a criterion in Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA), Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIPs), and Prescribed Fire Burn Plans.

Objective AQ-1.2 – Cooperate with other members of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group on smoke management.

Action AQ-1.2.1 – Follow procedures outlined in the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group Smoke Management Plan.

Action AQ-1.2.2 – Planned activities shall be conducted in accordance with the Idaho State Implementation Plan of the Clean Air Act (upon completion) and other plans and policies that control smoke emission on public lands.

Action AQ-1.2.3 – Ensure treatments using prescribed fire are consistent with US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires or with more current direction.

Objective AQ-1.3 – Ensure that all authorized activities on public lands meet federal and Idaho DEQ air quality standards and regulatory requirements.

Action AQ-1.3.1 – Prescribe and implement best management practices (BMPs) to reasonably prevent degradation of air quality when authorizing actions.

Action AQ-1.3.2 – Specify that compliance with federal and ID DEQ standards is required when authorizing actions.

Geology (GE)

Goal GE-1 – Provide for nonmineral uses of geologic values consistent with other resource goals.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
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Objective GE-A1.1.1 – None

Objective GE-B1.1.1 – Promote the scientific, educational, and recreational use and access to unique features.

Objective GE-C1.1.1 – Protect sites of geologic value from degradation by other uses.

Objective GE-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B

Action GE-A1.1.1.1 – None

Action GE-B1.1.1.1 – Develop plans for interpretive, recreational trails and informative sites near unique features.

Action GE-C1.1.1.1 – Limit public or commercial access that could degrade geologic sites.

Action GE-D1.1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Geology (GE)

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Goal GE-2 – Protect the public from geologic hazards on public lands.			
Alternative B: Commodity – Utility Action GE-B1.1.2 – Identify where unique features exist.	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection Action GE-C1.1.2 – Identify where unique features requiring protection exist.	Alternative D: Preferred Action GE-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	
Objective GE-B2.1 – None			
Objective GE-B2.1 – Consider geologic hazards when authorizing activities.			
Action GE-B2.1.1 – None			
Action GE-B2.1.1 – Identify where geologic hazards exist.			
Action GE-B2.1.1 – None			
Action GE-B2.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.			

Soil Resources (SO)

Goal SO-1 – Manage soils on public land to maintain, restore, or improve soil erosion class and watershed health.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective SO-A1.1 – Ensure that management actions for other resources incorporate adequate soil protection.			
Action SO-A1.1.1 – Implement BMPs on surface-disturbing activities.			
Action SO-A1.1.2 – Implement Road Guidelines (See Appendix B).			
Objective SO-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.			
Action SO-B1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.			
Action SO-B1.1.2 – Subwatersheds identified for restoration (See Appendix E) should be considered and reviewed for restoration opportunities to reduce adverse erosion and sediment delivery.			
Action SO-B1.1.3 – Apply appropriate reclamation measures to mitigate adverse erosion and sediment delivery.			
Action SO-B1.1.4 – See Riparian Conservation Area Management Guidelines in Appendix D for management guidance.			
Objective SO-B1.2 – Manage soil-disturbing activities to protect landslide-prone areas and minimize potential for mass wasting.			
Action SO-B1.2.1 – Before authorizing any soil-disturbing activity on slopes exceeding 55% and/or in areas exhibiting potential slope instability (including jack-strawed trees, convergent slopes, and perched water table), evaluate to determine potential landslide risk. Landslide-prone delineation and evaluation			
Objective SO-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.			
Action SO-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.			
Action SO-C1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.			
Action SO-C1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.			
Action SO-C1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.			
Objective SO-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.			
Action SO-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.			
Action SO-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.			
Action SO-D1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.			
Action SO-D1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.			
Objective SO-D1.2 – Same as Alternative B.			
Action SO-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.			

Soil Resources (SO)

shall include field assessment by an interdisciplinary team that includes a soil or watershed specialist. When landslide-prone areas are identified, implement Category 4 RCA buffers as outlined in the CNFISH (see Appendix D).

Action SO-B1.2.2 – Avoid locating road or timber harvesting on, or adjacent to, active landslides, slump blocks, or other mass wasting processes.

Action SO-D1.2.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SO-B1.2.3 – Existing roads occurring on landslide-prone areas will receive a priority for restoration (decommissioning, obliteration, or partial recontouring).

Action SO-D1.2.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Water Resources (WA)

Goal WA-1 – Maintain, improve, or restore water quality to sustain designated beneficial uses on public lands.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective WA-1.1 – Comply with state and federal requirements to protect public waters.			
Action WA-1.1.1 – Prescribe and implement BMPs to reasonably prevent degradation of water quality.			
Objective WA-A1.2 – Protect and maintain watersheds so that they appropriately capture, retain, and release water of quality that meets or exceeds state and federal standards.	Objective WA-B1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective WA-C1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective WA-D1.2 – Same as Alternative A.
Action WA-A1.2.1 – Identify and confirm specific identified watershed problems and sources, inventory road erosion problem areas, inventory ground and surface water sources, and evaluate flood damage areas.	Action WA-B1.2.1 – See Riparian Conservation Area Management Guidelines in Appendix D.	Action WA-C1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WA-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WA-A1.2.2 – Develop plans to alleviate watershed problems where public lands have been identified as a contributing source.			
Objective WA-A1.3 – Manage streams to maintain or restore designated beneficial use support status and, where feasible, achieve delisting of Clean Water Act 303(d) stream segments.	Objective WA-B1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective WA-C1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective WA-D1.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Water Resources (WA)

Action WA-B1.3.1 – Cooperate with adjacent landowners, agencies, tribes, individuals, communities, and municipalities to meet beneficial use criteria.	Action WA-C1.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WA-D1.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective WA-B1.4 – Protect all designated beneficial uses by preventing or limiting nonpoint source pollution; maintain or improve existing water quality and quantity through implementation of BMPs.	Objective WA-C1.4 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective WA-D1.4 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WA-B1.4.1 – Prescribe and implement BMPs to facilitate maintenance or improvement of attributes (i.e., vegetation, channel geometry) identified through PFC assessment and/or other qualitative or quantitative survey methods.	Action WA-C1.4.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WA-D1.4.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective WA-B1.6 – Protect all designated beneficial uses by preventing or limiting nonpoint source pollution; maintain or improve existing water quality and quantity through implementation of BMPs for authorized actions.	Objective WA-C1.6 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective WA-D1.6 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WA-B1.6.1 – Prescribe and implement BMPs to facilitate maintenance or improvement of desired attributes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • channel width/depth ratio; • streambank conditions; • substrate conditions; and • large woody material characteristics. 	Action WA-C1.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WA-D1.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WA-B1.6.2 – Existing and desired future conditions will be identified through PFC assessment, channel classification, and/or other qualitative or quantitative survey methods.	Action WA-C1.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WA-D1.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WA-B1.6.3 – Implement RCA and standards and guides from the CNFISH (see Appendix D).	Action WA-C1.6.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WA-D1.6.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands (VF)

Goal VF-1 – Restore forest vegetations towards historic species composition, structure, and function across the landscape. (See IPNF AMS and ICBEMP for definition of structure and function.)

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective VF-A1.1 – Determine present species composition, stocking level, and diversity.</p> <p>Action VF-A1.1.1 – Utilize FORVIS Inventory for 55,000 acres of public lands managed by the Coeur d'Alene Field Office.</p> <p>Action VF-A1.1.2 – Utilize 1993 inventory data for areas outside of the FORVIS inventory area.</p>	<p>Objective VF-B1.1 – Determine present species composition, structure, and function.</p> <p>Action VF-B1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action VF-B1.1.2 – Conduct forest vegetation inventory on remaining acres (approximately 27,500 acres) of public lands managed by the Coeur d'Alene Field Office.</p>	<p>Objective VF-C1.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action VF-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action VF-C1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Objective VF-D1.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Objective VF-A1.2 – Conduct stand conversions treatments to return specific areas to historic species composition on approximately 7,000 acres (includes WUI).</p>	<p>Objective VF-B1.2 – Restore forest stands to historic species composition, structure, and function by conducting vegetative treatments on approximately 9,600 acres over the next 15 years.</p> <p>Action VF-B1.2.1 – To restore historic composition (see Chapter 3) within wet/warm vegetation cover type, emphasize the use of natural disturbances, prescribed fire, and regeneration treatment methods (e.g., clearcut, seed tree, shelterwood, group selection, etc.) on approximately 975 acres.</p> <p>Action VF-B1.2.2 – To restore historic composition (see Appendix C) within the dry conifer vegetation cover type, emphasize the use of intermediate stand treatments (e.g., low thinning, free thinning, crown thinning, interplanting, etc.) on approximately 3,430 acres.</p>	<p>Objective VF-C1.2 – Restore forest stands to historic species composition on approximately 1,200 acres (based on historic occurrence of wildfire) over the next 15 years.</p> <p>Action VF-C1.2.1 – To restore historic composition (see Chapter 3) emphasize the use of natural disturbance and artificial regeneration on approximately 122 acres in the wet/warm cover type, 429 acres in the dry conifer cover type, and 649 acres in the wet/cold cover type.</p> <p>Action VF-C1.2.2 – Conserve and restore aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands.</p>	<p>Objective VF-D1.2 – Restore forest stands to historic species composition, structure, and function by conducting vegetative treatments on approximately 8,200 acres over the next 15 years.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.2.1 – To restore historic composition (see Chapter 3) within wet/warm vegetation cover type, emphasize the use of natural disturbances, prescribed fire, and appropriate silvicultural methods on approximately 833 acres of stands containing smaller diameter trees in the early- to mid-seral closed stage while maintaining late seral stands.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.2.2 – To restore historic composition (see Appendix C) within dry conifer vegetation cover type, emphasize the use of natural disturbances, prescribed fire, and appropriate silvicultural methods on approximately 2,930 acres of stands containing smaller diameter trees in the early- to mid-seral closed stage while</p>

Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands (VF)

<p>Action VF-B1.2.3 – To restore historic composition (see Appendix C) within the wet/cold vegetation cover type, emphasize the use of regeneration harvest and natural & artificial regeneration methods on approximately 5,195 acres.</p>	<p>Action VF-C1.2.3 – Utilize vegetation treatments in WUI areas that have low impact on wildlife habitat and water resources.</p>	<p>maintaining late-seral stands.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.2.3 – To restore historic composition (see Appendix C) within the wet/cold vegetation cover type, emphasize the use of regeneration harvest and natural & artificial regeneration methods on approximately 4,437 acres.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.2.4 – Same as Action VF-C1.2.2.</p>
<p>Action VF-B1.2.4 – Conduct field surveys to verify and/or update the FRCC and historic fire regime data prior to initiating structure and function restoration treatments</p>	<p>Action VF-B1.2.5 – To restore forest structure and function within FRCC 2 and FRCC 3 areas, reduce stocking levels through use of a combination of regeneration harvest methods, intermediate treatments, and prescribed burning.</p>	<p>Action VF-D1.2.5 – Same as Action VF-B1.2.4.</p>
<p>Action VF-B1.2.6 – When applying treatments in the vicinity of old growth stands, these treatments will fully maintain or contribute toward the restoration of the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the prefire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type, taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution of the stand to landscape fire adaptation and watershed health; and • Retaining the large trees contributing to old growth structure in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. <p>Old growth stands are those that meet the definition specified in Appendix C.</p>	<p>Action VF-C1.2.6 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action VF-D1.2.6 – Restore forest structure and function by reducing tree density and brush/shrub competition using appropriate silvicultural treatments including, but not limited to, intermediate treatments, release treatments, use of pesticides, and prescribed burning. Prioritize these treatments within FRCC 2 and FRCC 3 areas.</p> <p>Action VF-D1.2.7 – Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Objective VF-A1.3 – Reduce fire hazards by reducing stands to historic stocking levels on at least 2,600 acres within the WUI.</p>	<p>Objective VF-B1.3 – Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat function through the above objectives and actions, and in accordance with the goals, objectives, and actions listed in the Fish and Wildlife and Special Status Species sections.</p>	<p>Objective VF-D1.3 – Same as Alternative B</p>

Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands (VF)

Objective VF-B1.4 – Return the function of wildfire to its natural role in the ecosystem through the above objectives and actions and in accordance with the goals, objectives, and actions listed in the Wildland Fire Management Section.

Objective VF-C1.4 – Same as Alternative B. **Objective VF-D1.4** – Same as Alternative B.

Vegetation –Riparian and Wetlands (VR)

Goal VR-1 – *Provide for the Proper Functioning Condition of riparian and wetland areas.*

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective VR-A1.1 – Strive to achieve PFC for 75% of the riparian and wetland areas across the field office.	Objective VR-B1.1 – Strive to achieve PFC for 50% of the riparian and wetland areas across the field office.	Objective VR-C1.1 – Strive to achieve PFC for 75% of the riparian and wetland areas across the field office.	Objective VR-D1.1 – Same as Alternative C.
Action VR-A1.1.1 – Complete riparian and wetland inventory and assessment.	Action VR-B1.1.1 – Complete riparian and wetland inventory and assessment.	Action VR-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action VR-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action VR-B1.1.2 – Monitor nonfunctional and functional at-risk areas to detect upward or downward trend.	Action VR-C1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action VR-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action VR-B1.1.3 – Improve degraded riparian and wetland vegetation by implementing guidance contained in the CNFISH (RCA) - see Appendix D.	Action VR-C1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action VR-D1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action VR B1.1.4 – Maintain riparian and wetland areas in PFC so their condition rating is not degraded.	Action VR-C1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.	Action VR-D1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Vegetation – Nonforested (VN)

Goal VN-1 – *Maintain native and desirable nonnative plant communities.*

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective VN-A1.1 – Meet Idaho Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines.	Objective VN-B1.1 – Grass, forb, and shrub plant communities occur within site potential and are stable in health and vigor, and protect soil from erosion.	Objective VN-C1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective VN-D1.1 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action VN-B1.1.1 – Where appropriate, treat sites to prevent tree species invasion/ dominance.	Action VN-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action VN-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Vegetation – Nonforested (VN)

Action VN-B1.1.2 – Allow natural recovery to occur.	Action VN-C1.1.2 – Actively prevent offroad motorized and mechanical vehicle access/use.	Action VN-D1.1.2 – Actively prevent offroad motorized (except snowmobiles) and mechanical vehicle access/use.
	Action VN-C1.1.3 – Restore native communities through methods such as seeding where site potential allows and where a diversity of native vegetation is not being recruited.	Action VN-D1.1.3 – Same as Alternative C.

Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (VW)

Goal VW-1 – Prevent and control invasive and noxious weed infestations using integrated weed management techniques.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
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Objective VW-1.1 – Comply with state and federal requirements to manage noxious weeds.

Action VW-1.1.1 – Prescribe and implement activities to manage noxious weeds.

Objective VW-1.2 – Coordinate efforts with other members of Cooperative Weed Management Areas.

Action VW-1.2.1 – Follow procedures in Cooperative Weed Management Area Annual Operating Plans.

Objective VW-1.3 – Identify and prioritize invasive/noxious weeds and areas for treatment.

Action VW-1.3.1 – Prioritize weed species based on treatment goals as identified in the Cooperative Weed Management Area guidance:

- Priority I—Eradication (new invaders)
- Priority II—Containment (localized populations)
- Priority III—Management (widespread species)

Action VW-1.3.2 – Prioritize treatment areas on BLM-administered public lands:

- Areas with collected weeds fees
- High use areas
- Disturbed areas
- Sensitive areas
- Other areas

Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (VW)

Objective VW-1.4 – Apply an integrated weed management program for BLM-administered public lands.

Action VW-1.4.1 – Integrate effective weed control methods, including biological, manual, cultural, and herbicidal techniques.

Action VW-1.4.2 – When necessary, revegetate treated areas and areas vulnerable to weed invasion. Establish vegetation using methods appropriate for the site, such as seed mixtures and fertilizer.

Action VW-1.4.3 – Inventory, map, and monitor weed populations.

Action VW-1.4.4 – Develop weed prevention measures. Focus on ground-disturbing projects and permitted activities. Measures may include preproject treatments, washing equipment, minimizing soil disturbance, and establishing desirable vegetation. Incorporate measures into contracts and permits.

Action VW-1.4.5 – Educate the public regarding weed identification, control, and prevention.

Action VW-C1.4.6 – Develop vehicle wash station and vehicle wash requirements.

Fish and Wildlife (FW)

Goal FW-1 – Provide aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats for a natural abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife with self-sustaining populations in northern Idaho.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective FW-A1.1 – Promote restoration/recovery of aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats, including maintaining/restoring watersheds.	Objective FW-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective FW-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective FW-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action FW-A1.1.1 – Establish Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA) consistent with RMOs and Standards & Guidelines of INFISH (see Appendix D).	Action FW-B1.1.1 – Establish Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) consistent with RMOs and S&G in the CNFISH (see Appendices E and F).	Action FW-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective FW-A1.2 – Protect and enhance riparian and aquatic ecosystems.	Objective FW-B1.2 – Protect high quality aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats (ICBEMP Strategy).	Objective FW-C1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective FW-D1.2 – Same as Alternative B.
Action FW-A1.2.1 – Identify interim Riparian Management Objectives (RMO), Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA), standards and guidelines, and watershed analysis requirements (Interim guidelines until new RMP).	Action FW-B1.2.1 – Conserving and restoring subwatersheds (6 th field HUC) that provide habitat for federally listed and BLM sensitive species will be prioritized as listed in Appendix E.	Action FW-C1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Fish and Wildlife (FW)

Action FW-A1.2.2 – Implement standards and guidelines from INFISH.	Action FW-B1.2.2 – Within prioritized subwatersheds, identify Desired Future Condition for riparian and aquatic resources.	Action FW-C1.2.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D1.2.2 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action FW-B1.2.3 – Do not undertake management activities that would degrade existing habitat in conservation subwatersheds. Do not undertake management activities that would retard attainment of trends towards improvement of aquatic habitats in restoration subwatersheds.	Action FW-C1.2.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D1.2.3 – Same as Alternative B.
	Objective FW-B1.3 – Restore and enhance aquatic habitat for sport fish.	Note: There is no emphasis on objectives and actions under this alternative, as restoration and enhancement are considered amenities and/or commodities to improve recreational fishing. Increasing recreational opportunities is not a desired outcome under the conservation alternative.	Objective FW-D1.3 – Enhance aquatic habitat for sport fish where it does not conflict with native fish or other native aquatic species. Emphasis would be placed on native sport fish species.
	Action FW-B1.3.1 – Remove migration barriers.		Action FW-D1.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action FW-B1.3.2 – Return altered streams to natural channels when practical and beneficial for sport fish.		Action FW-D1.3.2 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action FW-B1.3.3 – Install large woody debris in streams where it is lacking.		Action FW-D1.3.3 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action FW-B1.3.4 – Actively enhance streamside shade (e.g., planting).		Action FW-D1.3.4 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action FW-B1.3.5 – Enhance spawning and rearing reaches of streams (e.g., instream structures).		Action FW-D1.3.5 – Same as Alternative B.
Goal FW-2 – <i>Provide terrestrial habitats for a natural abundance and diversity of native and desirable nonnative wildlife species with self-sustaining populations in northern Idaho.</i>			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective FW-A2.1 – Manage habitats for deer, elk, and moose.	Objective FW-B2.1 – Protect or enhance habitats for big game species.	Objective FW-C2.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective FW-D2.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Fish and Wildlife (FW)

<p>Action FW-A2.1.1 – All roads on crucial and important winter range for deer and elk will be closed to public vehicular access from December 1 to March 31 each year. This includes vehicles that can travel off established roadways (e.g., 4X4s, snowmobiles, etc.).</p>	<p>Action FW-B2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action FW-C2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action FW-A2.1.2 – Use Elk Habitat Guidelines to analyze all actions and determine impacts on elk spring, summer, and fall ranges (See Appendix B).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No decrease from existing calculated habitat potential would occur on important ranges (calving, rut, heavy use, and wallow areas). Up to 50% decrease may occur on other ranges. 	<p>Action FW-B2.1.2 – Use the Elk Coordination Guidelines in Appendix I.</p>	<p>Action FW-C2.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.1.2 – Consider incorporation of ID F&G recommendations in Appendix I (or most recent recommendations) during implementation or approval of actions affecting elk habitat.</p>
<p>Action FW-A2.1.3 – To protect deer habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confine any silvicultural method that changes an area from cover to forage (remove >60% of the cover) to an area less than 660 feet wide at any point (330 feet from any point within the cutting unit) and bordered by cover of not less than 1.5 sight distance (at least 200 feet in width). A sight distance is where a deer is hidden from view within any cover type. Follow stream buffer policy to maintain thermal cover and travel lanes. New roads will be buffered to 1.5-mile sight distance. All roads except main haul roads in areas identified as heavy use, fawning, rut, and lick areas would be closed to public vehicular access from April 1 to November 30 each year. 	<p>Action FW-B2.1.3 – Enhance winter range for deer and elk through vegetation treatments.</p>	<p>Action FW-C2.1.3 – Rejuvenate and enhance the shrub and herb components of big game winter ranges. See Wisdom et al. 2000 (not emphasizing "treatments" and using minimal management to achieve better habitat conditions – minimal human intervention).</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.1.3 – When practical, include big game forage and cover requirements in design of vegetation treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rejuvenate and enhance the shrub and herb components of big game winter ranges by simulating or promoting natural disturbance regimes in white-tailed deer habitats. To provide suitable forage areas, promote the use of 10-acre or smaller clearcuts and design forest openings such that cover is within 150 feet of all parts of the opening. Dispose of slash by fall broadcast burning or cutting to less than 1 foot high. Provide closed canopy forests (old growth) in low elevation forests where white-tailed deer winter (70% overall cover with 70% crown closure on winter ranges). Half of the winter range should be key winter range, which consists of 85% crown closure, 250 mature stems/acre, and canopy

Fish and Wildlife (FW)

heights at least 90 feet high.

- Protect riparian areas as habitat and population linkage areas. Where practical, fence riparian habitat and maintain adjacent cover strips of at least 250 feet and at least 20 acres.

Action FW-D2.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Action FW-C2.1.4 – All newly constructed roads will be closed and partially obliterated upon completion of the need and purpose for the road.

Action FW-B2.1.4 – All newly constructed roads will be closed and partially obliterated upon completion of the need and purpose for the road.

Action FW-A2.1.4 – All dead-end roads and roads with an expected duration of BLM management use of five years or less would be closed. New roads remaining open following harvest will be buffered by vegetation to 1.5-mile sight distance.

Action FW-D2.1.5 – Same as Alternative C.

Action FW-C2.1.5 – Reduce (through decommissioning) or maintain open road densities to one mile of road per square mile or less, outside of urban or rural areas.

Action FW-B2.1.5 – Evaluate and maintain existing deer and elk habitat management plans and identify need to develop new ones.

Action FW-D2.1.6 – Same as Alternative C.

Action FW-C2.1.6 – Restore fire as an ecological process in early-seral, shrub-dominated forests. (See Wisdom et al. 2000.)

Action FW-D2.1.7 – Evaluate and maintain existing deer and elk habitat management plans and identify need to develop new ones.

Objective FW-D2.2 – Same as Alternative C.

Objective FW-C2.2 – Maintain adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent animals, with emphasis on migratory birds, waterfowl, and bats.

Objective FW-B2.2 – Maintain adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent animals.

Objective FW-A2.2 – Maintain adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent animals.

Action FW-D2.2.1 – Retain an appropriate supply of living trees (≥ 14 inches dbh or, if not available then largest available) to supply future snags at the frequency identified in the table below, and, consistent with objectives for forest vegetation:

Fire Regime	Cover Type	Snags/acre
High Intensity		
	Wet Cold Conifer	8.1
	Dry Conifer	3.3
	Wet Warm Conifer	5.4
Low Intensity		
	Wet Cold Conifer	4.8

Action FW-C2.2.1 – Retain an appropriate supply of living trees (≥ 14 inches dbh or largest available) to supply future snags at the frequency identified in the table below:

Fire Regime	Cover Type	Snags/acre
High Intensity		
	Wet Cold Conifer	8.1
	Dry Conifer	3.3
	Wet Warm Conifer	5.4
Low Intensity		
	Wet Cold Conifer	4.8
	Dry Conifer	0.6
	Wet Warm Conifer	4.3

Action FW-B2.2.1 – Maintain a minimum of 2 large DBH ($> 14"$ or largest available) snags per acre when not hazardous to human activity and when of little fire potential.

- Leave at least two replacement trees ($> 14"$ or largest available) per acre
- Allow selected trees to mature past rotation age to provide future large snags.

Action FW-A2.2.1 – Guidelines include:

- Snag management would be practiced over at least 60% of any timber harvest area.
- All hard snags not hazardous to human activity and of little fire danger would be preserved.
- Select snags of smaller height and diameter for removal.
- Maintain a minimum of 2 large DBH ($> 14"$) snags per acre

Fish and Wildlife (FW)

- Attempt to leave at least four replacement trees per acre and allow selected trees to mature past rotation age to provide future large snags.
- Where snag densities are below desired levels, non-merchantable diseased trees should be girdled to provide snags. Installing artificial nesting structures may be necessary in some areas.
- In areas where firewood cutting may reduce snag density below the desired levels, "leave" trees will be marked to prevent cutting.

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Action FW-B2.2.2 – In areas where firewood cutting may reduce snag density below the desired levels, "leave" trees will be marked to prevent cutting.

Action FW-C2.2.2 – Same as Alternative B.

Action FW-D2.2.2 – In areas where firewood cutting may reduce snag density below the desired levels:

- "Leave" trees will be marked to prevent commercial firewood cutting.
- Snags should be located away from roads where they will likely go unnoticed or are beyond the desirable distance to collect firewood.
- If snags are left close to roads, a "Wildlife Tree: Do Not Cut" sign will be placed on the snag.

Action FW-C2.2.3 – Retain all ≥ 21 inches dbh live trees, snags, and logs, preferably in clumps, and provide opportunities for snag recruitment.

Action FW-D2.2.3 – Retain ≥ 21 inches dbh live trees, snags, and logs, preferably in clumps, and provide opportunities for snag recruitment consistent with objectives for forest vegetation treatment.

Action FW-C2.2.4 – Retain snags and logs ≥ 14 inches dbh (or largest available) according to the following table:

Action FW-D2.2.4 – Same as Alternative C.

Fire Regime	Cover	Type	Snags/acre
High Intensity			
	Wet Cold	Conifer	8.1
	Dry	Conifer	3.3
	Wet Warm	Conifer	5.4

Dry Conifer	0.6
Wet Warm Conifer	4.3
• Allow selected trees to mature past rotation age to provide future large snags.	

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<p>Low Intensity</p> <p>Wet Cold Conifer 4.8</p> <p>Dry Conifer 0.6</p> <p>Wet Warm Conifer 4.3</p>	
<p>Action FW-C2.2.5 – Implement the selection guidelines for reserve trees as offered by Oregon OSHA and others (1995).</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.5 – Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Action FW-C2.2.6 – No vegetation treatments that could result in the take of migratory birds will be authorized from May 15 to July 15.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.6 – Avoid or minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on migratory birds when conducting vegetation treatments.</p>
<p>Action FW-C2.2.7 – Retain and promote sustainability of late-seral forests through implementation of vegetation treatments identified in the forest vegetation section.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.7 – When applying treatments in the vicinity of old growth stands, follow guidance outlined in the forest vegetation section, Action VF-D1.2.7.</p>
<p>Action FW-C2.2.8 – Identify mid-seral forest stands that could be brought into late-seral conditions in the near future, and use appropriate vegetation treatments to encourage this development.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.8 – When consistent with goals and objectives in the forest vegetation section, identify mid-seral forest stands that could be brought into late-seral conditions in the near future, and use appropriate vegetation treatments to encourage this development.</p>
<p>Action FW-C2.2.9 – Emphasize uneven-aged silvicultural management techniques, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.9 – Emphasize uneven-aged silvicultural management techniques where appropriate and where consistent with goals and objectives in the forest vegetation and wildland fire management section.</p>
<p>Action FW-C2.2.10 – Protect waterfowl habitat through implementation of CNFISH-see Appendix D.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.10 – Protect and enhance waterfowl habitat through implementation of CNFISH and development of HMPs.</p>
<p>Action FW-C2.2.11 – Provide for the ingress and egress of bats when closing AML.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.2.11 – Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Objective FW-C2.3 – Protect raptors and their habitats.</p>	<p>Objective FW-D2.3 – Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Action FW-B2.3.1 – Maintain stand structure in a 50-yard buffer around active raptor nests.</p>	<p>Action FW-D2.3.1 – Maintain forest stand structure in a 100-yard buffer around active raptor nests outside of urban and rural areas, or within 50 yards inside urban or rural areas.</p>
<p>Action FW-A2.3.1 – Maintain a 100-yard buffer around the nest.</p>	

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Action FW-B2.3.2 – Restrict human activity within a 50-yard buffer around occupied nests, outside of urban and rural areas.	Action FW-C2.3.2 – Restrict human activity within a 100-yard buffer around occupied nests, outside of urban and rural areas.	Action FW-D2.3.2 – Restrict authorized activities within a 100-yard buffer around occupied nests outside of urban and rural areas, or within 50 yards inside urban or rural areas to protect occupied nests.
Action FW-B2.3.3 – Implement “Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1996” when issuing ROWs for powerlines.	Action FW-C2.3.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D2.3.3 – Same as Alternative B.
Action FW-B2.3.4 – For new mineral leases in the vicinity of active raptor nests, specify a no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-4 see Appendix F).	Action FW-C2.3.4 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D2.3.4 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective FW-A2.4 – Plan for selected small clearcuts (<10 acres) in future timber sales where natural vegetation succession would improve grouse habitat.	Objective FW-B2.4 – Provide or improve grouse habitat.	Objective FW D2.4 – Same as Alternative B.
Action FW-A2.4.1 – Clearcuts will not be permitted next to natural openings.	Action FW-B2.4.1 – In small clearcuts (<10 acre) replant with white Dutch clover.	Action FW-D2.4.1 – In small clearcuts (<10 acre) supplement natural succession by planting with native grasses and forbs where appropriate.
Action FW-A2.4.2 – Ridgeline cover will be maintained where grouse habitat is identified.	Action FW-B2.4.2 – Ridgeline cover will be maintained where grouse habitat is identified.	Action FW-D2.4.2 – Retain ridgeline cover for grouse habitat when consistent with forest vegetation treatment objectives.
Action FW-A2.4.3 – Forage grasses or legumes such as Dutch clover would be planted.		
Action FW-A2.4.4 – Cull logs (2 per acre 18 inches + dbh) will be left in timber harvest areas to provide drumming sites.	Action FW-B2.4.3 – Leave 2 logs per acre (18 inches + dbh, or largest available) in vegetation treatment areas to provide drumming sites.	Action FW-D2.4.3 – Retain snags and logs ≥14 inches dbh (or largest available) according to the tables in Action FW-D2.2.1.
Objective FW-B2.5 – Protect and enhance waterfowl habitat.	Action FW-B2.5.1 – Implement CNFISH to protect the habitat.	Note: See Objective FW-C2.2
	Action FW-B2.5.2 – Develop HMPs to	

Fish and Wildlife (FW)

enhance habitat.

Objective FW-B2.6 – Protect furbearer habitat.		Objective FW-C2.6 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective FW-D2.6 – Same as Alternative B.
Action FW-B2.6.1 – Implement CNFISH (see Appendix D) to protect habitat.		Action FW-C2.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D2.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Action FW-B2.6.2 – Maintain and enhance old growth forest stands.		Action FW-C2.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action FW-D2.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective FW-B2.7 – To provide the appropriate balance of diverse habitats, restore forest vegetation toward historic species composition, structure, and function in accordance with the goals, objectives, and actions in the Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands section (VF).		Objective FW-C2.7 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective FW-D2.7 – Same as Alternative B.

Special Status Species (SS)**Goal SS-1** – Conserve listed species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective SS-A1.1.1 Comply with recovery activities for all Threatened and Endangered (T & E) species.	Objective SS-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SS-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SS-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SS-A1.1.1 – No guidelines other than those that are required under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205) and pertinent bureau policy.	Action SS-B1.1.1 – For white sturgeon and bull trout, implement CNFISH-see Appendix D.	Action SS-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B. Continued on page 2-27	Action SS-D1.1.1 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for all Threatened and Endangered Species.
Continued on page 2-48	Continued on page 2-27		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the distribution of known populations and suitable habitats. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in systematic surveys and share information with partners, including the Idaho Conservation Data Center. Maintain a spatial database of species habitat information for BLM public lands. Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or its habitat are occurring, then modify the ongoing

Special Status Species (SS)

activity to avoid or minimize negative impacts and to promote conservation and recovery of species.

- b) Complete section 7 consultation for ongoing activities that may affect the species and its habitats.

- 3) Ensure that new federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species.

- a) Project-level inventories will be completed in suitable habitats during project planning if inventory information is unavailable or inadequate. The SO will issue instruction memorandum concerning special status species project-level inventories and assessment.

- b) If direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or their habitat are anticipated, then modify the proposed action to avoid or minimize anticipated negative impacts and to promote conservation and recovery of species.

- c) Complete section 7 consultation for new activities that may affect the species and their habitat.

- 4) Compile a general list of BMPs that would apply to all programs, to the extent that such a list would assist with consultation and species recovery. The intent of implementing BMPs is to avoid or minimize negative impacts. The SO will coordinate development of BMPs with FO, District Office (DO), USFWS, and IDFG, and issue Instruction memorandum. The FO will implement BMPs.

- 5) Implement adaptive management as needed to achieve conservation objectives. As species such as bald eagle become delisted, then continue application of these conservation measures to reduce the need for relisting at some future date.

- 6) Support conservation easements, cooperative management efforts, and

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other programs on adjacent nonfederal lands to support suitable habitat or restoration areas.

- 7) Projects involving the application of pesticides that may affect the species will be analyzed at the project level and designed such that pesticide applications will support conservation and recovery of species and minimize risks of exposure.

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- a) Evaluate the benefits and risks of vegetation treatment, including the following: application methods; chemicals, carriers, and surfactants used; needed treatment buffers; and use of nonchemical weed control (for example, bio-controls, hand pulling). If management objectives can effectively be accomplished using nonchemical methods, such is the preferred alternative.

- b) Apply appropriate spatial and temporal buffers to avoid species' exposure to harmful chemicals.

- c) Implement appropriate revegetation and weed control measures to reduce the risks of nonnative species infestations following any ground/soil disturbing actions in or near suitable habitat.

- 8) Where needed and feasible, coordinate with adjacent land owners and local governments regarding control of invasive plants in riparian areas through cooperative weed management programs.

- 9) Application of pesticides will be designed in accordance with the Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds program.

- 10) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect suitable habitat. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection.

- a) Review Fire Management Plans for adequacy in addressing conservation measures and modify the plan if

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needed.

- 11) Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities to promote habitat rehabilitation for all species.
 - a) If needed and if natural recovery would not achieve habitat objectives, then implement ES&R activities to promote rehabilitation of suitable habitat.
 - b) As needed, protect disturbed areas using temporary closures or other measures until the desired vegetation is reestablished and self-sustaining.
- 12) Incorporate conservation measures into Community Assistance agreements throughout the fire management program.
- 13) Approve mining plans of operation or allow notice level operations so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
 - a) To the extent allowed by law, modify existing plans of operation or notice-level operations that conflict with species management objectives in or adjacent to suitable habitat. For notice level operations, inform the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts.
 - b) To the extent allowed by law, avoid approving new plans of operation or notice-level operations that conflict with species management objectives in or adjacent to suitable habitat. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. For notice level operations, inform the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts. If a plan of

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operations will be approved in suitable habitat, then apply stipulations to support or to not preclude species recovery. A notice will require modification by the operator until BLM determines that it will not result in undue or unnecessary degradation.

Continued on page 2-48	Continued on page 2-27	Continued from page 2-27
		<p>14) When offering leases within special status species habitat, then specify a controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-2 see Appendix H) to prevent degradation of habitat.</p> <p>15) Manage existing and new recreation facilities (such as boat access, paved campgrounds, vault toilets, interpretive kiosks, etc.) so as to not preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of the physical facilities, as well as disturbances to species resulting from human uses. Modify existing facilities to avoid or minimize negative impacts.</p> <p>16) Manage dispersed use sites (such as informal areas, including camping areas and tie-up areas for pack animals and boats) so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes limiting disturbances to species resulting from human uses.</p> <p>17) Approve development of renewable energy resources so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.</p> <p>18) Manage existing roads, OHV routes and areas, and nonmotorized trails so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.</p> <p>19) Manage new roads, OHV routes and areas, and nonmotorized trails so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances</p>

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to the species resulting from human uses.

- 20) Where feasible and funding is available, acquire private lands within suitable habitats through land exchange or purchase.

- a) Take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Priority should be given to private lands that are adjacent to public lands and/or a population occurring on BLM and private lands.

- 21) Issue new and review existing land use permits and leases so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.

- 22) Issue new and review existing rights-of-way at renewal rights-of-way so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.

Action SS-C1.1.2 – Recommend withdrawal of public lands within 300 feet of streambeds from mineral leasing and location to protect bull trout habitat

Action SS-D1.1.2 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for bull trout, to include determination of the distribution of known populations and suitable habitats.

Action SS-C1.1.3 – Recommend withdrawal of public lands within 300 feet of streambeds from mineral leasing and location to protect white sturgeon habitat

Action SS-D1.1.3 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for white sturgeon to include determination of the distribution of known populations and suitable habitats.

Action SS-C1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SS-D1.1.4 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for woodland caribou.

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Action SS-B1.1.4 – Implement recovery activities for woodland caribou:

- 1) Develop fire management prescriptions that restrict fires to small areas while not restricting caribou movement or habitat use.
- 2) Implement silvicultural prescriptions to control insects and disease that do not adversely affect caribou habitat.

- 1) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect suitable habitat. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection.

- a) Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) within woodland

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- 3) Implement standards and guidelines for timber management to maintain and enhance caribou habitat. Techniques such as uneven-aged management and extended rotations may be necessary to enhance or restore caribou habitat to a desired condition.
- 4) Pursue opportunities for either land exchange or purchase.

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- caribou habitat. Consult with resource advisors to determine where MIST should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
- b) Do not locate fire base camps, staging areas, and fueling areas within woodland caribou habitat. Avoid conducting other related suppression activities in these habitats.
- 2) Wildland fire use projects will be designed to conserve suitable habitat for woodland caribou by developing fire management prescriptions that restrict fires to small areas while not restricting caribou movement or habitat use.
- 3) Prescribed fire projects will be designed to develop management prescriptions within woodland caribou habitat that restrict fires to small areas while not restricting animal movement or habitat use.
- 4) Nonfire fuels projects will be designed to develop management prescriptions within woodland caribou habitat that restrict projects to small areas while not restricting animal movement or habitat use
- 5) Forest management will be conducted in a manner that is compatible with woodland caribou recovery goals.
 - a) Implement silvicultural prescriptions to control insects and disease that do not adversely affect caribou habitat.
 - b) Implement standards and guidelines for timber management to maintain and enhance caribou habitat. Techniques such as uneven-aged management and extended rotations may be necessary to enhance or restore caribou habitat.
- 6) projects to small areas while not restricting animal movement or habitat use
- 7) Forest management will be conducted in a manner that is compatible with woodland

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caribou recovery goals.

- a) Implement silvicultural prescriptions to control insects and disease that do not adversely affect caribou habitat.
- b) Implement standards and guidelines for timber management to maintain and enhance caribou habitat. Techniques such as uneven-aged management and extended rotations may be necessary to enhance or restore caribou habitat.

Action SS-B1.1.5 – Implement recovery activities for bald eagle.

- 1) Implement Aquatic Strategy listed under Fish and Wildlife Goal 1.
- 2) BLM-authorized actions within 0.25 mile from the shoreline of feeding waters between November 15 and February 15 should not adversely affect bald eagles.
- 3) BLM-authorized actions with 0.25 mile of nest sites from March 1 to July 20 should not adversely affect bald eagles.
- 4) Locate and describe all existing nest sites, communal roosts, foraging areas, and areas used during migration.
- 5) Secure specific significant habitat through lease, trade, easement, cooperative agreements, or purchase.
- 6) Retain and manage habitat to benefit bald eagles and compatible uses in accordance with FLPMA. Identify these lands as important eagle habitat in the RMP process. Designate all or parts of these areas as ACECs.
- 7) Design and implement HMPs to secure individual nest sites, roosts, and foraging areas.

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Action SS-C1.1.5 – Same as Alternative B. Continued on page 2-34

Action SS-D1.1.5 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for bald eagle.

- 1) Conserve mature riparian forests (i.e., cottonwood galleries) in suitable habitat to maintain their integrity for use by bald eagles.
 - a) Emphasize eradication of non-native invasive species in riparian areas that compete with cottonwood regeneration. Continue to identify problem areas and implement appropriate weed control measures.
 - b) Allow commercial timber management projects or firewood cutting when negative impacts to suitable bald eagle habitat can be avoided or minimized. Ensure that such activities maintain or improve old growth stand characteristics within ½ mile of nest and communal roost sites.
 - c) As needed, close suitable habitat in riparian forests to non-commercial firewood cutting and post the closure.
- 2) Identify nest sites, communal roost sites, and key foraging areas for bald eagles.
- 3) Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of species.
 - a) Review ongoing activities where local consultation has not yet been

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- 8) Maintain and improve habitat for fish by reducing siltation from logging, roads, and overgrazing.
- 9) Prohibit harvest of known nest trees, perch trees, and winter roost trees.
- 10) Manage timber stands used by eagles to prevent insect infestations where appropriate.
- 11) Where appropriate, stabilize streambanks and soils to protect nesting, perching, and roosting trees.
- 12) Fire management plans should identify nests, roosts, and important perch trees that should be priorities for fire suppression. These plans should include guidelines for minimizing disturbance to eagles and their habitat during fire suppression efforts.
- 13) All snags that are potential eagle perches within 500 meters (1,650 feet) of nests or roosts should be preserved. In addition, all snags used for roosting or foraging within nesting territories or communal roosts should be protected.
- 14) Silvicultural prescriptions should be developed for maintaining or accelerating growth of suitably formed nest, perch, and roost trees to ensure their long-term availability.
- 15) Picnicking, camping, blasting, firearm use, timber harvest, and low-level aircraft operations should not be allowed within 0.25 mile of nests and roosts during periods of eagle use.
- 16) Permanent structures that would be occupied during periods of eagle use should not be

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- completed within 2 ½ miles of bald eagle nests or within the area designated in the local bald eagle nest management plan, and within one mile of communal roost sites.
- b) Avoid implementing activities within 1/2 mile of bald eagle nest sites during the breeding season (February 1 through July 31) and communal roost sites and key foraging areas during the wintering season (November 15 to February 15).
- 4) Update or develop management plans for nest sites, communal roost sites, or key foraging areas.
- 5) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect suitable habitat. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection.
 - a. Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting areas for bald eagle. Consult with resource advisors to determine where MIST should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
 - b. Do not locate fire base camps, staging areas, and fueling areas within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting areas for bald eagle. Avoid conducting other related suppression activities in these habitats.
- 6) Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities by planting locally appropriate nesting and roosting trees for bald eagle.
- 7) Wildland fire use projects will be designed to avoid burning adjacent to suitable habitat for bald eagle.
- 8) Nonfire fuels projects will be designed to

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constructed near nesting or winter use areas. Buildings should not be closer than 0.25 mile from the shoreline of feeding waters.

- 17) Guide human activity away from important feeding perches, and prevent human disturbances in nesting and roosting areas.
- 18) Eagle viewing and interpretive areas can provide a unique experience for the public. Opportunities should be sought for viewing areas where access can be controlled and disturbance risks can be minimized.
- 19) Specify a timing limitation (TL-2 see Appendix H) for new mineral leases within winter feeding areas.

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include seed mixes that will enhance or promote the growth of willows, cottonwoods, or other target species for bald eagle.

- 9) Conserve mature upland forests in suitable habitat to maintain their integrity for use as bald eagle nesting, roosting, or perching substrate.
 - a) Allow commercial timber management projects or firewood cutting when negative impacts to suitable bald eagle habitat can be avoided or minimized. Ensure that such activities maintain or improve old growth stand characteristics within ½ mile of nest and communal roost sites
 - b) Close suitable habitat areas to noncommercial firewood cutting if management problems arise.
- 10) Maintain and promote suitable habitat and restore areas for bald eagles while implementing rangeland health standards and guidelines (S&Gs).
- 11) Manage livestock grazing and trailing to promote nesting and roosting tree growth and recruitment, healthy riparian communities, or a combination of these objectives.
- 12) As needed, protect disturbed areas using issue temporary closures or other measures until the cottonwood saplings (or other target tree species) are reestablished and self-sustaining.
- 13) Maintain regular compliance checks on grazing allotments with nest sites and communal roost sites to identify problems as soon as possible and take immediate corrective measures.
- 14) Manage livestock facilities to promote nesting and roosting tree growth and recruitment, healthy riparian communities, or a combination of these objectives.
- 15) When offering leases within special status species habitat, then specify a timing

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limitation (TL-2 see Appendix H) for leasing within bald eagle winter feeding areas.

16) Modify existing facilities to avoid or minimize negative impacts and avoid development of new recreation facilities or expansion of existing facilities within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting areas of bald eagle if negative impacts are expected.			
17) Minimize human activity within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting areas of bald eagle. Close areas, either seasonally or yearround, as needed and post the closure.	Continued on page 2-34		
18) Issue commercial and noncommercial recreation permits, including outfitter camps, so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities (such as camps), as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.			
a) Modify existing permits that conflict with providing bald eagle suitable habitat conditions.			
b) Avoid issuing new recreation permits if negative impacts are expected. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with bald eagle recovery needs. In particular, avoid permitting new recreation activities within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting areas of bald eagle. If a recreation permit is issued, apply stipulations to the permit to support or to not preclude species conservation and recovery. Avoid issuing recreation permits if negative impacts are expected.			
19) Educate recreation users at boat ramps and at designated camp areas about the need to conserve habitat for bald eagles.			
20) To the extent allowed by law, modify existing geothermal leases within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting			

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areas of bald eagle if negative impacts are expected.

- 21) To the extent allowed by law, do not permit new development of geothermal within 1/2 mile of nests and traditional communal roosting areas of bald eagle if negative impacts are expected.
- 22) Modify roads, routes, and trails if negative impacts are occurring within 1/2 mile of nest sites or communal roosts of bald eagles. Evaluate the need for seasonal OHV use restrictions within or adjacent to these habitat areas to reduce disturbances to the species. Seek opportunities to close and reclaim OHV routes or nonmotorized trails and use areas if negative impacts are occurring.
- 23) Avoid constructing new roads, routes, trails, and areas if negative impacts are expected within 1/2 mile of nest sites or communal roosts of bald eagles. Consider the need for seasonal OHV use restrictions within or adjacent to these habitat areas to reduce disturbances to the species. Avoid opening new roads, routes, trails, and areas in suitable habitat.
- 24) Retain active nest sites in public ownership unless compelling circumstances necessitate the land tenure adjustment. Avoid the loss of suitable habitat from Federal ownership. If property with suitable habitat will be transferred out of Federal ownership, then permanent conservation easements may be attached to the transfer that would offer equal or greater protection than under Federal management. Such measures must be approved by the State Director.
- 25) Avoid renewing existing permits or leases and issuing new permits or leases if negative impacts are expected within 1/2 mile of nest sites or communal roosts of bald eagles. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a permit or lease will be issued or reissued in suitable

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habitat, apply stipulations to the permit that support or do not preclude species conservation and recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

- 26) Avoid renewing existing rights-of-way or issuing new rights-of-way if negative impacts are expected within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a right-of-way will be issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the right-of-way that support or do not preclude species conservation recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

- 27) Explore the potential for new designations that would enhance species recovery, such as relic, good-condition, cottonwood galleries.

Action SS-B1.1.6 – Implement recovery activities for Canada lynx identified in the Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment (2004).

- Adopt objectives, standards, and guidelines that are common to all programs and activities.
- Adopt objectives, standards, and guidelines for vegetative management activities and practices.
- Adopt objectives, standards, and guidelines for livestock grazing activities and practices.
- Adopt objectives, standards, and guidelines for human uses management activities and practices.
- Adopt objectives, standards, and guidelines for linkage areas, subject to valid existing rights.
- Adopt monitoring activities.

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Action SS-C1.1.6 – Same as Alternative A. Continued on page 2-43

Action SS-D1.1.6 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for Canada lynx.

- 1) Manage vegetation to be more similar to historic succession and disturbance processes while maintaining habitat components necessary for the conservation of Canada lynx.
 - a) Unless a broad scale assessment has been completed that substantiates different historic levels of unsuitable habitat, limit disturbance in each LAU or in a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs as follows:
 - b) If more than 30 percent of the lynx habitat in an LAU or a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs is currently in unsuitable condition, no additional habitat may be made unsuitable by vegetation management projects.
 - c) This standard does not apply to fuel treatment projects identified through

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<p>processes such as that described in <i>A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan</i>.</p>														<p>Use the same analysis boundaries for all vegetation management projects subject to this standard.</p>
														<p>Maintain or improve lynx habitat, emphasizing high quality winter snowshoe hare habitat near denning habitat.</p>
														<p>Maintain at least ten percent of the lynx habitat in an LAU as denning habitat in patches generally larger than five acres. Where less than ten percent denning habitat is present in an LAU, either:</p>
														<p>Defer vegetation management projects in stands that have the highest potential to develop denning habitat; or</p>
														<p>Move towards ten percent denning habitat by leaving enough standing trees and coarse woody debris to be similar to what would be there naturally.</p>
														<p>This standard does not apply to fuel treatment projects identified through processes such as that described in <i>A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan</i>.</p>
														<p>Map the location and amount of snow-compacting uses that coincide with Canada lynx habitat within lynx analysis units (LAU) for designated over-the-snow and groomed routes and areas, and areas of consistent snow compaction. Such activities include snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, dog sledding, etc.</p>
														<p>Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species.</p>

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- b) Vegetation management projects should be planned to recruit a high density of conifers, hardwoods and shrubs where such habitat is scarce or not available. Priority should be given to stem-exclusion, closed-canopy structural stage. Winter snowshoe hare habitat should be near denning habitat. Vegetation management projects should be planned to extend the production of winter snowshoe hare habitat when forage quality and quantity is declining.
- c) Vegetation management projects designed to retain or restore denning habitat should be located where there is a low probability of stand-replacing fire.
- d) Annually monitor the acres of vegetation management projects that occurred in lynx habitat and in winter snowshoe hare habitat during the previous fiscal year.
- 8) Nonfire fuels projects will be designed to conserve and enhance habitat within LAUs:
- a) Do not create permanent travel routes that facilitate snow compaction in Canada lynx habitat. Avoid construction of permanent firebreaks on ridges or saddles.
- b) Vegetation management projects should be planned to recruit a high density of conifers, hardwoods and shrubs where such habitat is scarce or not available. Priority should be given to stem-exclusion, closed-canopy structural stage. Winter snowshoe hare habitat should be near denning habitat. Vegetation management projects should be planned to extend the production of winter snowshoe hare habitat when forage quality and quantity is declining.

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<p>c) Vegetation management projects designed to retain or restore denning habitat should be located where there is a low probability of stand-replacing fire.</p> <p>d) Annually monitor the acres of vegetation management projects that occurred in lynx habitat and in winter snowshoe hare habitat during the previous fiscal year.</p>		
<p>9) Design regeneration harvest, reforestation, and thinning to develop characteristics suitable for winter snowshoe hare habitat within Canada lynx habitat.</p> <p>a) Precommercial thinning projects that reduce winter snowshoe hare habitat during the stand initiation structural stage may occur only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Within 200 feet of administrative sites, dwellings or outbuildings; or ii) For research studies or genetic tree tests evaluating genetically improved reforestation stock; or iii) For fuel treatment projects identified through processes such as that described in <i>A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan</i>. 	Continued on page 2-43	Continued on page 2-43
<p>b) Vegetation management projects should be planned to recruit a high density of conifers, hardwoods and shrubs where such habitat is scarce or not available. Priority should be given to stem-exclusion, closed-canopy structural stage. Winter snowshoe hare habitat should be near denning habitat. Vegetation management projects should be planned to extend the production of winter snowshoe hare habitat when</p>		

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forage quality and quantity is declining.

- c) Vegetation management projects designed to retain or restore denning habitat should be located where there is a low probability of stand-replacing fire.
- d) Habitat for alternate prey species, primarily red squirrel, should be provided in each LAU.
- e) After a disturbance that kills trees in areas five acres or smaller which could contribute to lynx denning habitat, salvage harvest should not occur unless at least ten percent denning habitat in an LAU is retained and well distributed.
- f) Vegetation management projects should provide habitat conditions through time that maintain winter snowshoe hare habitat during the understory reinitiation or old multistory structural stages. Vegetation management projects should be used to improve lynx habitat where dense understories are lacking.
- g) Annually monitor the acres of vegetation management projects that occurred in lynx habitat and in winter snowshoe hare habitat during the previous fiscal year.
- 10) Manage livestock grazing to be compatible with improving or maintaining Canada lynx habitat.
 - a) In fire and harvest created openings, livestock grazing should be managed so that impacts do not prevent shrubs and trees from regenerating.
 - b) In aspen stands, livestock grazing should be managed to contribute to their long-term health and sustainability.
 - c) In riparian areas and willow carrs, livestock grazing should be managed

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to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

- d) In shrub-steppe habitats, livestock grazing should be managed in the elevation ranges of forested lynx habitat in LAUs, to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

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- 11) Manage human activities such as exploring and developing minerals to reduce impacts on Canada lynx and its habitat.

- a) For mineral development sites and facilities, remote monitoring should be encouraged to reduce snow compaction.

- b) For mineral development sites and facilities that are closed, a reclamation plan that restores lynx habitat should be developed.

- c) Winter access for mineral exploration and development, should be limited to designated routes or designated over-the-snow routes.

- 12) Manage recreational activities to maintain Canada lynx habitat and connectivity.

- a) Concentrate activities in existing developed areas, rather than developing new areas in lynx habitat.

- b) Recreation developments and operations should be planned in ways that both provide for lynx movement and maintain the effectiveness of lynx habitat.

- 13) Manage human activities such as exploring and developing energy resources to reduce impacts on Canada lynx and its habitat.

- a) For energy development sites and

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facilities, remote monitoring should be encouraged to reduce snow compaction.		
b)	For energy development sites and facilities that are closed, a reclamation plan that restores lynx habitat should be developed.	
c)	Winter access for energy exploration and development, should be limited to designated routes or designated over-the-snow routes.	
14)	Maintain the lynx's natural competitive advantage over other predators in deep snow, by discouraging the expansion of snow compacting activities in lynx habitat.	Continued on page 2-43
a)	New permanent roads should not be built on ridgetops and saddles, or in areas identified as important for lynx habitat connectivity. New permanent roads and trails should be situated away from forested stringers.	
b)	Cutting brush along low-speed, low-traffic volume roads should be done to the minimum level necessary to provide for public safety.	
c)	On new roads built for projects, public motorized use should be restricted. Effective closures should be provided in road designs. When the project is over, these roads should be reclaimed or decommissioned, if not needed for other management objectives.	
d)	Designated over-the-snow routes or play areas should not expand outside baseline areas of consistent snow compaction by LAU, or in a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs, unless designation serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat.	
e)	This does not apply inside permitted ski area boundaries, to winter logging, to rerouting trails for public safety, to accessing private inholdings.	

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<p>f) Use the same analysis boundaries for all actions subject to this guideline.</p> <p>15) Reduce adverse highway effects on Canada lynx by working cooperatively with other agencies to provide for lynx movement and habitat connectivity, and to reduce the potential of lynx mortality.</p> <p>a) Methods to avoid or reduce effects on lynx should be used in lynx habitat when upgrading unpaved roads to maintenance levels 4 or 5, if the result would be increased traffic speeds and volumes, or a foreseeable contribution to increases in human activity or development.</p> <p>b) Identify potential highway crossings and fencing when highway or forest highway construction or reconstruction is proposed.</p> <p>16) Retain Canada lynx habitat in Federal ownership to the extent possible, while balancing other needs.</p> <p>17) Provide for Canada lynx habitat needs and connectivity when developing new or expanding existing developed ski areas.</p> <p>a) When developing or expanding ski areas, provisions should be made for adequately sized intertrail islands that include coarse woody debris, so winter snowshoe hare habitat is maintained.</p> <p>b) When developing or expanding ski areas, nocturnal foraging should be provided consistent with the ski area's operational needs, especially where lynx habitat occurs as narrow bands of coniferous forest across mountain slopes.</p> <p>c) When developing or expanding ski areas and trails, access roads and lift termini should be located to maintain and provide lynx diurnal security habitat.</p> <p>18) Manage human activities within Canada</p>				

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lynx habitat such as placing utility corridors and permitting special uses to reduce impacts on lynx and lynx habitat.

- a) For development of special uses, remote monitoring should be encouraged to reduce snow compaction.
- b) For energy development sites and facilities that are closed, a reclamation plan that restores lynx habitat should be developed.
- c) Winter access for energy exploration and development, should be limited to designated routes or designated over-the-snow routes.

Action SS-B1.1.7 – For gray wolf endangered population:

- Implement land use restrictions to prevent the take of wolves at active den sites (identified by USFWS, ID F&G, or Nez Perce Tribe) between April 1 and June 30. Otherwise, no additional restrictions will be necessary to reduce or prevent take of wolves solely to benefit gray wolf recovery under the ESA (50 CFR 17.40(n)(5)). The following land use restrictions would be applied on BLM public lands within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites.
- Assure that habitat for big game and secondary prey species, including riparian areas, are managed to sustain (1) an adequate prey base for a recovered wolf population based on information obtained under Tasks 431, 432, 433, and 434; and (2) accommodate State ungulate management objectives.
- Coordinate and monitor to assure that livestock operations and wolf management are compatible.
- Make logging and fire management compatible with wolf spatial and

Action SS-C1.1.7 – Same as Alternative B. Continued on page 2-47

Action SS-D1.1.7 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for gray wolf, endangered population.

- 1) Improve the quality and quantity of forage on big game winter range.
- 2) Identify active den and rendezvous sites within pack territories for gray wolves.
- 3) Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species.
 - a) Review ongoing activities where local consultation has not yet been completed within known pack territories of gray wolves.
 - b) Avoid implementing activities within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolves from April 1 to June 30.
- 4) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect suitable habitat. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection.
 - a) Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites for gray wolf. Consult with resource advisors to determine where MIST

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habitat requirements.

- Coordinate recreations activities with wolf spatial and habitat requirements.
- Make mining and energy operations compatible with wolf spatial and habitat requirements.
- Assure that activities requiring special use permits are made compatible with wolf spatial and habitat requirements.
- Identify private lands that may be necessary for the survival and recovery of the wolf and secure management authority through development of Memorandums of Agreement, conservation easements, and cooperative agreements or through purchase, exchange, or lease.
- Coordinate, in time and space, multiple-use activities to avoid adverse cumulative impacts.

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- should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
- b) Do not locate fire base camps, staging areas, and fueling areas within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites for gray wolf. Avoid conducting other related suppression activities in these habitats.
 - 5) Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities by planting locally appropriate vegetation preferred by big game species for gray wolf.
 - 6) Wildland fire use projects will be designed to include appropriate burn prescriptions that maximize the conservation of big game habitat for gray wolf.
 - 7) Nonfire fuels projects will be designed to emphasize improvement big game winter ranges for gray wolf.
 - 8) Implement forest management actions that maintain the integrity of wolf habitat.
 - a) Avoid new road construction or reconstruction within one mile of active den sites and rendezvous sites.
 - b) Apply appropriate spatial (one mile) and temporal (April 1 to June 30) buffers to avoid human disturbance around den and rendezvous sites.
 - 9) Modify existing facilities to avoid or minimize negative impacts and avoid development of new recreation facilities or expansion of existing facilities within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolf if negative impacts are expected.
 - 10) As possible and where there is the potential to reduce conflicts between people and either wolf or bear, move dispersed camps to locations or modify them to mitigate negative impacts to gray wolves.
 - 11) Issue commercial and noncommercial recreation permits, including outfitter

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- camps, so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities (such as camps), as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
- a) Where there is the potential to reduce conflicts between people and either wolf or bear, modify outfitter camps or the permit stipulations to minimize negative impacts to grizzly bears or their habitat.
 - b) Avoid issuing new recreation permits if negative impacts are expected. If a recreation permit is issued, apply stipulations to the permit to support or to not preclude species conservation and recovery. Avoid issuing recreation permits if negative impacts are expected. Avoid placement of new outfitter camps and issuance of permits that would have negative impacts on gray wolf habitat or would increase conflicts between people and gray wolf.
- 12) To the extent allowed by law, modify existing geothermal leases within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolf if negative impacts are expected.
- 13) To the extent allowed by law, do not permit new development of geothermal within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolf if negative impacts are expected.
- 14) If a geothermal lease or sale will be issued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to address habitat management requirements, including measures to avoid increasing conflicts between wolves and people.
- 15) Modify roads, routes, and trails if negative impacts are occurring within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolves. Evaluate the need for seasonal OHV use restrictions within or adjacent to these habitat areas to reduce disturbances to the species. Seek opportunities to close and reclaim OHV

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<p>routes or nonmotorized trails and use areas if negative impacts are occurring.</p>					
<p>16) Avoid constructing new roads, routes, trails, and areas if negative impacts are expected within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolves. Consider the need for seasonal OHV use restrictions within or adjacent to these habitat areas to reduce disturbances to the species. Avoid opening new roads, routes, trails, and areas in suitable habitat.</p>					
<p>17) Manage recreational travel to reduce human/wolf interactions to promote wolf recovery.</p>		Continued on page 2-47		Continued on page 2-47	
<p>a) Eliminate, as appropriate, mechanized cross-country travel (designate areas as limited or closed) within one mile of active den or rendezvous sites.</p>					
<p>b) Evaluate the need for seasonal restrictions or permanent closings within one mile of active den or rendezvous sites.</p>					
<p>c) Avoid development of OHV routes or nonmotorized trails within one mile of active den or rendezvous sites.</p>					
<p>18) Maintain regular compliance checks on road and OHV closures to protect key wolf habitat areas and to identify problems as soon as possible and take immediate corrective measures.</p>					
<p>19) Retain active den and rendezvous sites in public ownership unless compelling circumstances necessitate the land tenure adjustment. Avoid the loss of suitable habitat from Federal ownership. If property with suitable habitat will be transferred out of Federal ownership, then permanent conservation easements may be attached to the transfer that would offer equal or greater protection than under Federal management. Such measures must be approved by the State Director.</p>					
<p>20) Avoid renewing existing permits or leases and issuing new permits or leases if negative impacts are expected within one</p>					

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mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolves. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a permit or lease will be issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the permit that support or do not preclude species conservation and recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

- 21) Avoid renewing existing rights-of-way or issuing new rights-of-way if negative impacts are expected within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites of gray wolves. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a right-of-way will be issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the right-of-way that support or do not preclude species conservation recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

Action SS-B1.1.8 – For gray wolf experimental nonessential population:

- When USFWS, ID F&G, or the Nez Perce Tribe determines that five or fewer breeding pairs are established within an experimental population area, restrict human access between April 1 and June 30 within one mile of active wolf den or rendezvous sites. When six or more breeding pairs are established within an experimental population area, no land use restrictions may be employed (50 CFR 17.84(i)(4)).

- Same as management actions for gray wolf, endangered population for BLM-authorized actions within one mile of active den and rendezvous sites identified by USFWS, ID F&G, or the Nez Perce Tribe.

Action SS-C1.1.8 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SS-D1.1.8 – Same as Alternative B.

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Action SS-A1.1.9 – Implement the science that comes from the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project.

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Action SS-B1.1.9 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SS-B1.1.10 – Implement recovery activities for grizzly bear.

- From April 1 to November 15, BLM-authorized actions within grizzly bear habitat will meet or exceed the following management actions.
- Identify sources of indirect mortality that bring bears and people into conflict such as road use, land development, and recreation.
- Make domestic livestock grazing compatible with grizzly bear habitat requirements.
- Make timber harvest and road building compatible with grizzly bear habitat requirements.
- Make mining and oil and gas exploration and development compatible with grizzly bear habitat requirements.
- Make recreation compatible with grizzly bear habitat needs.
- The BLM will contribute its proportionate share of minimal habitat values within each Bear Management Unit.
 - 55% core habitat
 - Total Motorized Road Density (TMRD) > than 2 miles/mi² should not exceed 26% of the area of an individual BMU.
 - Open Motorized Road Density (OMRD) > 1 mile/mi² should not exceed 33% of the area of an individual BMU.

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Action SS-C1.1.9 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SS-C1.1.10 – Same as Alternative B.
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- 1) Identify all BLM public lands within grizzly bear management units (BMU), including core areas. BLM public lands will be identified by Management Situation 1 – 5. Identify all BLM public lands outside of recovery zones that are occupied by grizzly bears.
- 2) Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species.
 - a) Review ongoing activities where local consultation has not yet been completed within known BMUs.
- 3) Cooperate in the management of habitat inside grizzly bear recovery zones.
 - a) Participate in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem grizzly bear subcommittee.
 - b) Determine open and total motorized route density allocations for BLM public lands within the BMUs.
 - c) Do not allow the net loss of core areas until allocations have been determined.
 - d) Do not allow an increase in open and total motorized route density within BMUs until allocations have been determined.
 - e) Once allocations are determined for BLM public lands, manage accordingly to meet or exceed (better than) the allocations.
 - f) Maintain or improve habitat conditions consistent with objectives for the BMU and MS.
 - g) Coordinate with the IGBC to develop

Action SS-D1.1.9 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SS-D1.1.10 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for grizzly bear.

- 1) Identify all BLM public lands within grizzly bear management units (BMU), including core areas. BLM public lands will be identified by Management Situation 1 – 5. Identify all BLM public lands outside of recovery zones that are occupied by grizzly bears.
- 2) Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species.
 - a) Review ongoing activities where local consultation has not yet been completed within known BMUs.
- 3) Cooperate in the management of habitat inside grizzly bear recovery zones.
 - a) Participate in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem grizzly bear subcommittee.
 - b) Determine open and total motorized route density allocations for BLM public lands within the BMUs.
 - c) Do not allow the net loss of core areas until allocations have been determined.
 - d) Do not allow an increase in open and total motorized route density within BMUs until allocations have been determined.
 - e) Once allocations are determined for BLM public lands, manage accordingly to meet or exceed (better than) the allocations.
 - f) Maintain or improve habitat conditions consistent with objectives for the BMU and MS.
 - g) Coordinate with the IGBC to develop

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- Apply interagency grizzly bear management guidelines prior to recovery that maintain or enhance habitats.

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and implement guidelines for sanitation and food storage on BLM public lands, as needed.

- 4) Manage habitat outside of recovery zones identified as occupied by grizzly bears.
 - a) Establish baseline for open and total motorized route densities on BLM public lands occupied by grizzly bears that are outside of recovery zones.
 - b) Do not allow increases of open motorized route densities on BLM public lands above the baseline conditions.
 - c) Increases in total motorized route densities as a result of temporary roads (roads gated to the public) above baseline conditions are acceptable.
 - d) Maintain or enhance existing habitat value in areas outside of recovery zones that are occupied by grizzly bears.
 - e) Coordinate with the IGBC to develop and implement guidelines for sanitation and food storage on BLM public lands, as needed.
- 5) Cooperate to protect and restore habitat connectivity between grizzly bear recovery zones.
 - a) Identify BLM public lands within linkage areas that are important to provide landscape connectivity between recovery zones.
 - b) Within linkage areas, provide for grizzly bear landscape connectivity by participating in the development and management of grizzly bear habitat on BLM public lands.
- 6) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect suitable habitat. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection.

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- a) Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) within BMUs. Consult with resource advisors to determine where MIST should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
 - b) Do not locate fire base camps, staging areas, and fueling areas within grizzly bear core areas. Avoid conducting other related suppression activities in these habitats.
 - c) Coordinate with the USFS and IDL personnel regarding fire suppression activities in grizzly bear habitat.
- 7) When Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities are warranted, include requirements that promote grizzly bear habitat rehabilitation, minimize disturbance in project planning and implementation activities, and do not increase human /bear interactions (e.g. planting clover near roads). Activities will be consistent with the management guidelines for the MS. Design seed mixes that emphasize native vegetation, and meet bear management habitat needs.
- 8) Wildland fire use projects will be designed to be consistent with grizzly BMU direction.
- 9) Prescribed fire projects will not create permanent motorized access routes or trails within grizzly bear core areas. Avoid creating other motorized access routes or trails within BMUs if negative impacts are anticipated. Emphasize rehabilitating roads and trails developed for project implementation.
- a) Implement prescribed fire projects to avoid other conflicts with grizzly bears, as needed.
- 10) Nonfire fuels projects will not create permanent motorized access routes or trails within grizzly bear core areas. Avoid creating other motorized access routes or trails within BMUs if negative impacts are anticipated. Emphasize rehabilitating roads and trails developed for project

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implementation.

- a) Implement nonfire projects to avoid other conflicts with grizzly bears, as needed.
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- 11) Forest management will be conducted in a manner that is compatible with grizzly bear recovery goals. Timber harvest and associated road building will be compatible with grizzly bear habitat requirements for the BMU (management guidelines for the MS) and identified areas of bear occupancy outside of recovery zones.
 - 12) Modify existing facilities to avoid or minimize negative impacts and avoid development of new recreation facilities or expansion of existing facilities within BMUs if negative impacts are expected.
 - 13) As possible and where there is the potential to reduce conflicts between people and grizzly bear, move dispersed camps to locations or modify them to mitigate negative impacts to grizzly bears.
 - 14) Issue commercial and noncommercial recreation permits, including outfitter camps, so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes management of physical facilities (such as camps), as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
 - a) Where there is the potential to reduce conflicts between people and grizzly bear, modify outfitter camps or the permit stipulations to minimize negative impacts to grizzly bears or their habitat.
 - b) Avoid issuing new recreation permits if negative impacts are expected. If a recreation permit is issued, apply stipulations to the permit to support or to not preclude species conservation and recovery. Avoid issuing recreation permits if negative impacts are expected. Avoid placement of new outfitter camps and issuance of permits that would

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have negative impacts on grizzly bear habitat or would increase conflicts between people and grizzly bear. When permits are issued require educational programs for outfitters and their clients regarding grizzly bear identification and conservation.

- 15) To the extent allowed by law, modify existing geothermal leases within BMUs if negative impacts are expected.
- 16) To the extent allowed by law, do not permit new development of geothermal within BMUs if negative impacts are expected.
- 17) If a geothermal lease or sale will be issued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to address habitat management requirements, including measures to avoid increasing conflicts between bears and people.
- 18) Install effective closure devices for motorized vehicles on nonmotorized trails within core grizzly bear areas on BLM public lands.
- 19) Minimize construction of nonmotorized trails in grizzly bear habitat if negative impacts are anticipated.
- 20) Avoid the loss grizzly bear habitat in recovery zone and linkage areas from Federal ownership. If property is to be transferred out of Federal ownership in the recovery zones, permanent conservation easements will be attached to the transfer or other measures will be taken that would result in equal or greater protection than under Federal management. Such measures must be approved by the State Director.
- 21) Avoid renewing existing permits or leases and issuing new permits or leases if negative impacts are expected within BMUs. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a permit or lease will be

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issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the permit that support or do not preclude species conservation and recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

22) Avoid renewing existing rights-of-way or issuing new rights-of-way if negative impacts are expected within BMUs. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a right-of-way will be issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the right-of-way that support or do not preclude species conservation recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

	Action SS-B1.1.11 – Implement recovery activities for yellow-billed cuckoo.	Action SS-C1.1.11 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SS-D1.1.11 – In cooperation with the IDFG, USFWS, USFS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for yellow-billed cuckoo.
Continued on page 2-57	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement CNFISH to protect riparian habitat.• Maintain old forests with cottonwood-willow stands, and identify younger stands for eventual development of old growth conditions. <p>Continued on page 2-57</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Conserve mature riparian forests (i.e., cottonwood galleries) in suitable habitat to maintain their integrity for use by yellow-billed cuckoo.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Emphasize eradication of nonnative invasive species in riparian areas that compete with cottonwood regeneration. Continue to identify problem areas and implement appropriate weed control measures.b) As needed, close suitable habitat in riparian forests to noncommercial firewood cutting and post the closure.2) Identify known populations and suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos.3) Ensure that ongoing federal actions either support or do not preclude conservation and recovery of the species.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Review ongoing activities where local consultation has not yet been completed within areas with known populations of yellow-billed cuckoo.

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- b) Avoid implementing activities that have the potential to disturb or displace known populations of yellow-billed cuckoos during the breeding season (May through September).
- 4) Update or develop management plans for nest sites, communal roost sites, or key foraging areas.
- 5) In restoration areas, consider planting or other habitat enhancement measures to improve cuckoo habitat value.
- 6) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect suitable habitat. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection.
- a) Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo. Consult with resource advisors to determine where MIST should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
- b) Do not locate fire base camps, staging areas, and fueling areas within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo. Avoid conducting other related suppression activities in these habitats.
- 7) Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities to promote habitat rehabilitation by planting locally appropriate nesting and roosting trees for yellow-billed cuckoo.
- 8) Wildland fire use projects will be designed to avoid burning adjacent to suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo.
- 9) Nonfire fuels projects will be designed to include seed mixes that will enhance or promote the growth of willows, cottonwoods, or other target species for yellow-billed cuckoo.
- 10) Maintain and promote suitable habitat and restore areas for yellow-billed cuckoos while implementing rangeland health

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standards and guidelines (S&Gs).

- a) Manage livestock grazing and trailing to promote nesting and roosting tree growth and recruitment, healthy riparian communities, or a combination of these objectives.
 - b) As needed, protect disturbed areas using issue temporary closures or other measures until the cottonwood saplings (or other target tree species) are reestablished and self-sustaining.
 - c) Maintain regular compliance checks on grazing allotments with nest sites and communal roost sites to identify problems as soon as possible and take immediate corrective measures.
 - d) Manage livestock facilities to promote nesting and roosting tree growth and recruitment, healthy riparian communities, or a combination of these objectives.
-
- 11) Modify existing facilities to avoid or minimize negative impacts and avoid development of new recreation facilities or expansion of existing facilities within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo if negative impacts are expected.
 - 12) Educate recreation users at boat ramps and at designated camp areas about the need to conserve habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos.
 - 13) To the extent allowed by law, modify existing geothermal leases within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo if negative impacts are expected.
 - 14) To the extent allowed by law, do not permit new development of geothermal within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo if negative impacts are expected.
 - 15) Modify roads, routes, and trails if negative impacts are occurring within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos. Evaluate the need for seasonal OHV use restrictions within or adjacent to these

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habitat areas to reduce disturbances to the species. Seek opportunities to close and reclaim OHV routes or nonmotorized trails and use areas if negative impacts are occurring.

- 16) Avoid constructing new roads, routes, trails, and areas if negative impacts are expected within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos. Consider the need for seasonal OHV use restrictions within or adjacent to these habitat areas to reduce disturbances to the species. Avoid opening new roads, routes, trails, and areas in suitable habitat.

17) Avoid renewing existing permits or leases and issuing new permits or leases if negative impacts are expected within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a permit or lease will be issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the permit that support or do not preclude species conservation and recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

18) Avoid renewing existing rights-of-way or issuing new rights-of-way if negative impacts are expected within suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos. Consider the seasonal nature of the proposed activities, and whether this conflicts with conservation and recovery of the species. If a right-of-way will be issued or reissued in suitable habitat, apply stipulations to the right-of-way that support or do not preclude species conservation recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.

19) Explore the potential for new designations that would enhance species recovery, such as relict, good condition, cottonwood galleries.

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Action SS-B1.1.12 – For new mineral leases

within special status species habitat, specify a controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-2 see Appendix F).

Action SS-C1.1.12 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SS-B1.1.13 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SS-A1.1.13 – Protect and conserve threatened and endangered plants and animals.

- Standard 8: Habitats are suitable to maintain viable populations of threatened and endangered, sensitive, and other special status species. Indicators are listed in the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

Action SS-B1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SS-A1.1.2 – When located, threatened and/or endangered plants and animals will be protected and formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated by BLM as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Objective SS-C1.2 – Manage habitat for special status species consistent with USFWS recovery plans.

Objective SS-D1.2 – Same as Alternative C.

Action SS-C1.2.1 – As USFWS updates recovery plans, BLM will identify appropriate management actions to incorporate into the RMP.

Action SS-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative C.

Goal SS-2 – Ensure that BLM-authorized actions are consistent with the conservation needs of special status species and do not contribute to the need to list any special status species under provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt

Alternative B: Commodity – Utility

Alternative C: Conservation – Protection

Alternative D: Preferred

Objective SS-A2.1 – Implement recovery activities for fish and wildlife species that inhabit aquatic, riparian, and wetland areas.

Objective SS-B2.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Objective SS-D2.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SS-A2.1.1 – Implement Aquatic Strategy listed under Fish and Wildlife Goal 1 (INFISH -see Appendix D).

Action SS-B2.1.1 – Implement CNFISH -see Appendix D.

Action SS-C2.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SS-D2.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SS-C2.1.2 – Avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to listed and sensitive species.

Action SS-D2.1.2 – Same as Alternative C.

Action SS-C2.1.3 – Continue to inventory for

Action SS-D2.1.3 – Same as Alternative C.

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populations of sensitive fish species. Where populations do exist, ensure that management of permitted activities maintains and/or improves the quality of habitat.

Action SS-C2.1.4 – Maintain an updated 6th field HUC map in GIS with current fish distribution.

Action SS-D2.1.4 – Same as Alternative C.

Action SS-C2.1.5 – Withdraw streambed and area within 300 feet of both streambanks from locatable minerals.

Objective SS-A2.2 – Maintain adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent animals.	Objective SS-B2.2 – Maintain adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent special status animals.	Objective SS-C2.2 – Maintain adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent animals, with emphasis on migratory birds and bats.	Objective SS-D2.2 – Same as Alternative C
Action FW-A2.2.1 – Guidelines include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snag management would be practiced over at least 60 of any timber harvest area. • All hard snags not hazardous to human activity and of little fire danger would be preserved. • Select snags of smaller height and diameter for removal. • Maintain a minimum of 2 large DBH (> 14") snags per acre. • Attempt to leave at least four replacement trees per acre and allow selected trees to mature past rotation age to provide future large snags. • Where snag densities are below desired levels, nonmerchantable diseased trees should be girdled to provide snags. Installation of artificial nesting structures may be necessary in some areas. • In areas where firewood cutting may reduce snag density below the desired levels, "leave" trees will be marked to prevent cutting. 	Action SS-B2.2.1 – Implement CNFISH- see Appendix D.	Action SS-C2.2.1 – Implement actions under FW-C2.2.	Action SS-D2.2.1 – Implement actions under FW-D2.2.
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Action SS-B2.2.2 – See Action FW-B2.2.1 (size and snag retention)

Action SS-B2.2.3 – Implement Action FW-B2.2.2 (actions pertaining to firewood cutting)

Objective SS-B2.3 – Implement recovery activities for fisher.		Objective SS-C2.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective SS-D2.3 – Same as Alternative B.
Action SS-B2.3.1 – Implement CNFISH - see Appendix D.		Action SS-C2.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SS-B2.3.1 – Implement actions under FW-D2.2.
Action SS-B2.3.2 – Follow guidelines for snag retention in Fisher Habitat as stated below:		Action SS-C2.3.2 – Retain snags and large diameter trees in accordance with actions under objective FW-C2.2. In addition:	
Fire Regime	Cover Type	Snags/acre	
High Intensity			
Wet Cold Conifer		8.1	
Dry Conifer		3.3	
Wet Warm Conifer		5.4	
Low Intensity			
Wet Cold Conifer		4.8	
Dry Conifer		0.6	
Wet Warm Conifer		4.3	
Action SS-B2.3.3 – In areas where firewood cutting may reduce snag density below the desired levels, "leave" trees will be marked to prevent cutting.		Action SS-C2.3.3 – Identify mid-seral forest stands that could be brought into old growth conditions in the near future, and use appropriate silvicultural activities to encourage this development.	
Action SS-B2.3.4 – Retain stands of late-seral forests according to the forest vegetation goals, objectives, and actions.		Action SS-C2.3.4 – Retain stands of late-seral forests and promote their long-term sustainability.	
Action SS-B2.3.5 – Same as Alternative C.		Action SS-C2.3.5 – Implement the selection guidelines for reserve trees as offered by Oregon OSHA and others (1995).	
Objective SS-B2.4 – Same as Alternative A.		Objective SS-C2.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SS-D2.4 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SS-A2.4.1 – Implement recovery activities for wolverine.			
Action SS-A2.4.1 – Cooperate with ID F&G to inventory for wolverine.		Action SS –C2.4.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS –D2.4.1 – Same as Alternative A.

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Action SS-A2.4.2 – Prohibit authorized actions on or near potential denning habitat.	Action SS-B2.4.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-C2.4.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-D2.4.2 – Same as Alternative A.
	Action SS-B2.4.3 – If the Crystal Lake WSA is released from further study, then continue to restrict BLM-authorized actions and snowmobile use from December 1 to March 31.	Action SS-C2.4.3 – BLM-authorized actions and snowmobile use within and near wolverine denning habitat would be restricted from December 1 to March 31.	Action SS-D2.4.3 – Outside the Crystal Lake WSA, restrict BLM-authorized actions and snowmobile use within one mile of known denning sites from December 1 to March 31; if the Crystal Lake WSA is released from further study, then continue to restrict BLM-authorized actions and snowmobile use within the WSA from December 1 to March 31.
		Action SS-C2.4.4 – Reduce road densities across BLM public lands to one mile of road per square mile of land.	Action SS-D2.4.4 – Reduce (through decommissioning) or maintain open permanent road densities to one mile of road per square mile or less, outside of urban or rural areas.
		Action SS-C2.4.5 – All newly constructed roads will be obliterated back to slope upon completion of the need and purpose for the road.	Action SS-D2.4.5 – All newly constructed roads will be closed and partially obliterated upon completion of the need and purpose for the road.
		Action SS-C2.4.6 – Designate potential denning habitat within the Rochat Divide ACEC.	Action SS-D2.4.6 – Include potential denning habitat within designated Rochat Divide ACEC.
SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS			
Objective SS-A2.5 – Ensure that rare plant populations/associated habitats and rare plant communities are stable or continue to improve in vigor and distribution.	Objective SS-B2.5 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SS-C2.5 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SS-D2.5 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SS-A2.5.1 – Inventory, monitor, and cooperate with other agencies, organizations, and individuals to continue gathering information on special status plants and rare plant communities.	Action SS-B2.5.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-C2.5.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-D2.5.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SS-A2.5.2 – Inventory project areas to determine if special status plants or rare plant communities are present prior to authorizing activities that could potentially impact these plants/communities.	Action SS-B2.5.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-C2.5.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-D2.5.2 – Same as Alternative A. Implement specific management actions for Spalding's catchfly and water howellia.
Action SS-A2.5.3 – Design appropriate mitigation/guidelines (e.g., avoidance of occupied areas, distances from occupied	Action SS-B2.5.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-C2.5.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-D2.5.3 – Same as Alternative A. Implement specific management actions for

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habitat) when a project occurs near special status plant population(s).			Spalding's catchfly and water howellia:
Action SS-A2.5.4 – Continue cooperative participation in recovery plants, management plans, and conservation strategies for special status plant species.	Action SS-B2.5.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-C2.5.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SS-D2.5.4 – Same as Alternative A. Implement specific management actions for Spalding's catchfly and water howellia:
End of actions for special status species under Alternative A.	End of actions for special status species under Alternative B	<p>Action SS-C2.5.5 – Prioritize conservation actions, inventory, and monitoring for special status species based on habitats risk/threats, rarity, and endemism.</p> <p>Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federally Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Proposed Species • Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species – High Endangerment possibility • Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species – Moderate Endangerment: Species of Concern <p>Action SS-C2.5.6 – Prioritize weed control at special status plant populations threatened by weed infestation. Methods of weed spraying within or near habitat will be formulated on site-specific and species-specific basis.</p> <p>Action SS-C2.5.7 – Avoid seeding within occupied habitat unless clearly beneficial for special status plants.</p> <p>Action SS-C2.5.8 – Where special status species can be conserved and habitat connectivity improved through interagency cooperation, consider acquisition of lands through land tenure adjustments, easements, and interagency cooperation.</p> <p>Action SS-C2.5.9 – Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of rare plants and their habitats through education of CdA FO personnel and public outreach.</p> <p>Action SS-C2.5.10 – For new mineral leases within or adjacent to special status plant species, specify a no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-5 see Appendix F).</p>	Action SS-D2.5.5 – Same as Alternative C. Implement specific management actions for Spalding's catchfly and water howellia:
			Action SS-D2.5.6 – Same as Alternative C. Implement specific management actions for Spalding's catchfly and water howellia:
			Action SS-D2.5.7 – Same as Alternative C. Implement specific management actions for Spalding's catchfly and water howellia:
			Action SS-D2.5.8 – Same as Alternative C. Specific management actions for water howellia and Spalding's catchfly:
			Action SS-D2.5.9 – Same as Alternative C.
			Action SS-D2.5.10 – In cooperation with the IDFG Conservation Data Center (CDC), USFWS, and other partners, implement conservation measures for all Threatened and Endangered plant species.

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End of Actions for special status species under Alternative C.

- 1) Cooperate in the development of interagency inventory methods and data standards for mapping or database management.
- 2) Surveys, mapping, and data management:
 - a) In cooperation with CDC and USFWS, record and map all known populations, high priority habitat areas, and suitable habitat for BLM lands.
 - b) Commit to an annual inventory effort to a level permitted by funding. Surveys and inventories will be prioritized to address areas of suitable habitat with a high likelihood of species occurrences. Inventories will be designed to complement other program needs.
 - c) In cooperation with CDC, maintain a spatial database of species information.
- 3) Following current monitoring protocols, conduct regular monitoring of any populations found on BLM lands.
- 4) To promote species recovery, update or develop habitat management plans or other implementation-level plans as needed.
- 5) As funding allows, participate in research essential to recovery of the species; cooperate in determining specific limiting factors in terms of habitat needs and characteristics; and cooperate in population viability analyses to ensure that recovery criteria objectives are being met.
- 6) Support seed banks in a suitable long-term seed storage facility, as needed, and as funding allows.
- 7) Working with other agencies, compile a general list of BMPs that would apply to all programs, to the extent that such a list would assist with consultation and species recovery. The intent of implementing BMPs is to avoid or minimize negative impacts. The BLM's Idaho State Office

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- (SO) would coordinate development of BMPs with CdA FO, CdA District Office, USFWS, and CDC and issue an instruction memorandum. The CdA FO will implement the BMPs.
- 8) As funding allows, support the establishment and maintenance of new populations in suitable habitat. The goal of these activities is to maintain or enhance viable populations.
 - 9) Ensure that ongoing federal actions support or do not preclude species recovery.
 - a) As needed, review ongoing activities in high priority habitat areas where local consultation has not yet been completed.
 - b) Determine if direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or their habitat are occurring as a result of discretionary ongoing BLM actions. If so, modify the activity to avoid or minimize anticipated negative impacts and promote species recovery.
 - c) Where needed, complete section 7 consultation for ongoing activities that may affect listed species and their habitat.
 - 10) Ensure that new federal actions support or do not preclude species recovery.
 - a) Project-level inventories will be completed in suitable habitat during project planning, if inventory information is not available or adequate. The SO will issue an instruction memorandum concerning special status species project-level clearance inventories.
 - b) If direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or their habitat are anticipated as a result of new BLM actions, modify the activity to avoid or minimize the impacts and promote species recovery.

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- c) Where needed, complete section 7 consultation for new activities that may affect listed species and their habitat.
- 11) Conduct site-specific implementation and effectiveness monitoring. Adjust management as needed to ensure that management objectives are met.
- 12) Take advantage of opportunities as they arise to support conservation easements, cooperative management efforts, and other programs on adjacent nonfederal lands to support known populations or potential habitat.
- 13) Projects involving the application of pesticides that may affect the species or suitable habitat will be analyzed at the project level and designed such that pesticide applications will support conservation and recovery and minimize risks of exposure. Site-specific stipulations will be developed locally using the following criteria:
 - a) Evaluate the benefits and risks of vegetation treatment including: application methods; pesticides, carriers, and surfactants used; needed treatment buffers; and use of nonchemical weed control (for example, bio-controls, hand pulling). If management objectives can effectively be accomplished using nonchemical methods, such is the preferred alternative.
 - b) Apply appropriate spatial and temporal buffers to avoid species exposure to harmful chemicals.
 - c) Emphasize eradication of competing nonnatives in high priority habitat areas as a top priority.
 - d) Implement appropriate revegetation and weed control measures to reduce the risks of nonnative species infestations following any ground/soil disturbing actions in or near known populations.

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- 14) Take advantage of opportunities as they arise to coordinate with adjacent land owners and local governments regarding control of invasive plants through cooperative weed management programs. One of BLM's priorities within the cooperative weed program will be protection of listed and candidate plants on BLM lands.
- 15) Manage livestock grazing and trailing so as not to preclude conservation and recovery of species. This includes maintaining or enhancing suitable habitat while implementing current rangeland health standards and guidelines (S&G).
 - a) In suitable habitat that has not been surveyed, schedule surveys so occurrence information is available for S&G assessments associated with permit and lease renewals. Use the survey prioritization process described under item 2) b).
 - b) As appropriate to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify livestock grazing permits and leases.
 - c) Maintain regular compliance checks on grazing allotments with known populations to identify problems as soon as possible and take immediate corrective measures.
- 16) Manage livestock facilities to promote maintenance of suitable habitat while implementing rangeland health S&Gs. As appropriate to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify existing and avoid placement of new livestock facilities in or adjacent to high priority habitat areas.
- 17) Promote restoration of suitable habitat following fire, fire rehabilitation, restoration treatments, or other major disturbances. As needed, protect disturbed areas using temporary closures or other measures until the risk of erosion or other impacts has passed and habitat components are reestablished and self-sustaining.
- 18) Manage existing and new developed

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recreation facilities (paved campgrounds, vault toilets, interpretive kiosks, etc.) so as not to preclude species conservation and recovery.

- a) As appropriate to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify existing facilities.
 - b) Avoid development of new recreation facilities or expansion of existing facilities in or adjacent to high-priority habitat areas, if negative impacts are anticipated.
- 19) Manage dispersed use sites (informal areas, including camping areas and tie-up areas for pack animals) so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery.
- a) Limit disturbances to the species resulting from human uses. In addition, minimize human activity in and adjacent to high priority habitat areas, if negative impacts are occurring.
 - b) Close areas, either seasonally or yearround, as needed to protect the species and its habitat, and post and monitor the closure.
- 20) Issue commercial and noncommercial recreation permits so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities (such as camps), as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
- a) If needed, modify existing permits that negatively impact high priority habitat areas for the species.
 - b) Avoid issuing recreation permits if negative impacts are expected. In particular, avoid permitting new recreation activities in high priority habitat areas. If a recreation permit is to be issued, apply stipulations to the permit to support or to not preclude species conservation and recovery.

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- 21) Manage roads, OHV routes and areas, as well as nonmotorized trails, in accordance with goals for promoting species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
 - a) Modify routes in high priority habitat areas, if negative impacts are occurring. Implement restrictions to reduce disturbance. Seek opportunities to close and revegetate OHV routes or nonmotorized trails and use areas in and adjacent to high priority habitat areas, if negative impacts are occurring.
 - b) Avoid constructing new trails, roads, routes, and areas if negative impacts are expected. In particular, avoid opening new trails, routes, and areas in and adjacent to high priority habitat areas.
 - c) Maintain regular compliance checks on OHV closures to protect known populations and to identify problems as soon as possible and take immediate corrective measures.
- 22) Take advantage of opportunities as they arise to establish special designation areas (e.g., ACECs) that would enhance species recovery.
- 23) Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect high priority habitat.
 - a) Review Fire Management Plan for adequacy in addressing conservation measure. Modify the plan if needed.
 - b) Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) in suitable habitat, as appropriate. Consult with resource advisor(s) to determine where MIST tactics should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
 - c) Do not locate fire base camps,

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staging areas, and fueling areas within known populations. Avoid these and other related suppression activities in and adjacent to high priority habitat areas if negative impacts may occur.

- d) As needed, coordinate with U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands personnel regarding fire suppression activities in or near suitable habitat.
- 24) Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities to promote species habitat rehabilitation.
- a) As needed, protect disturbed areas using temporary closures or other measures until site-specific stabilization and rehabilitation plan goals specific to the species and habitat are met.
 - b) If needed for vegetation restoration, design native seed mixes that emphasize local stock and would promote species recovery.
 - c) Fire rehabilitation projects involving the application of pesticides in suitable habitat will be analyzed and implemented in accordance with item 13).
- 25) Wildland fire use projects (where allowed) will be designed to conserve suitable habitat. When developing wildland fire use plans, avoid burning suitable habitat if negative impacts are expected, and develop appropriate burn prescriptions that maximize the conservation of suitable habitat.
- 26) Prescribed fire projects will be designed to conserve suitable habitat. When developing prescribed fire plans, avoid or minimize negative impacts to suitable habitat, and use prescribed fire as a tool for assisting with species conservation.
- 27) Implement nonfire fuels management projects involving the use of chemicals in accordance with item 13).

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- 28) Promote establishment and maintenance of habitats that support populations.
 - a) Avoid non-fire fuels management projects in or near known populations, unless such projects would enhance species recovery or are necessary for hazardous fuels reduction near the wildland-urban interface.
 - b) Implement protection measures to avoid or minimize negative impacts to known populations.
 - c) In suitable habitat, design native seed mixes that emphasize local stock and would promote species recovery.
- 29) Incorporate conservation measures into Community Assistance Agreements throughout the fire management program.
- 30) Acquire through land exchange or purchase, private lands that support known populations, as opportunities arise, and where feasible and funding is available. Priority should be given to lands that are adjacent to or near public lands and/or a population occurring on BLM and private lands.
- 31) Retain known populations in Federal ownership unless such a transfer would result in a net benefit to the species.
 - a) Review each land tenure decision in terms of species habitat.
 - b) Avoid the loss of known populations from Federal ownership. If property with known populations is to be transferred out of Federal ownership, permanent conservation easements will be attached to the transfer or other measures will be taken that would result in equal or greater protection than under Federal management. Such measures must be approved by the BLM State Director.
- 32) Issue new land use permits and leases,

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and review existing permits and leases at renewal, so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.

- a) Avoid issuing new permits or leases, or renewing existing permits or leases, within or adjacent to high-priority habitat areas if negative impacts are expected.
 - b) If a permit or lease is to be issued or reissued in such areas, apply stipulations to the permit that support or do not preclude species recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.
- 33) Issue new rights-of-way, and review existing rights-of-way at renewal, so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
- a) Avoid issuing rights-of-way, or renewing existing rights-of-way, in or adjacent to high-priority habitat areas if negative impacts are expected.
 - b) If a right-of-way is to be issued or reissued in such areas, apply stipulations to the right-of-way that support or do not preclude species recovery and that avoid or minimize negative impacts.
- 34) Approve plans of operations or allow notice level operations so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
- a) To the extent allowed by law, modify plans of operation or notice-level operations that may have negative impacts on the species or their habitat. For notice level operations,

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inform the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts.

- b) To the extent allowed by law, avoid approving plans of operation or notice-level operations that may have negative impacts on the species or their habitat. For notice level operations, inform the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts. If a plan of operations is to be approved in or adjacent to high priority habitat areas, apply stipulations to support or to not preclude species recovery. A notice will require modification by the operator until BLM determines that it will not result in undue or unnecessary degradation.
- 35) Approve development of saleable or leaseable minerals so as not to preclude species habitat conservation and recovery. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.
- a) Modify existing mineral leases if negative impacts are expected.
 - b) Avoid development of saleable or leaseable minerals in or adjacent to high priority habitat areas, if negative impacts are expected. If a minerals lease or sale is to be issued in or adjacent to high priority habitat areas, apply a no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-5 see Appendix H) to support or to not preclude species recovery.

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Action SS-D2.5.11 – In cooperation with the IDFG Conservation Data Center (CDC), USFWS, and other partners, implement conservation measures specific to the management of water howellia.

1) Conserve mature riparian forests in suitable habitat to protect habitat needed by pollinators of this species.

a) Avoid issuing commercial firewood cutting permits in suitable habitat in riparian forests. If permits are issued, ensure that such activities are consistent with the long-term maintenance of mature riparian forests.

b) As needed, close suitable habitat in riparian forests to noncommercial firewood cutting and post the closure.

2) Retain forest structure on the edge of riparian areas with known populations or in suitable habitat for shading these wetland areas.

a) Allow commercial timber management projects or firewood cutting when negative impacts to suitable habitat can be avoided or minimized.

b) Close suitable habitat areas to noncommercial firewood cutting if management problems arise.

Wildland Fire Management (WF)

Goal WF-1 – Protect life and property while returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective WF-A1.1 – Implement appropriate fire suppression actions to protect significant timber and natural resource values.</p> <p>Action WF-A1.1.1 – Suppress all wildfires using Appropriate Management Response (AMR).</p> <p>Action WF-A1.1.2 – Strive for full suppression on all fire starts and reach control status within one operational period.</p> <p>Action WF-A1.1.3 – Restrictions, such as closures, may be imposed during times of severe fire danger to mitigate the risk of wildland fire, in accordance with the Idaho Fire Restriction Agreement, which is administered by the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group.</p> <p>Continue on page 2-75</p>	<p>Objective WF-B1.1 – Provide an Appropriate Management Response to all wildland fires emphasizing firefighter and public safety while protecting economically valuable resources and assets.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.1.1 – Strive for full suppression on all fire starts and reach control status within one operational period.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.1.2 – Use the WFSA process to employ suppression tactics to protect economically valuable resources and assets.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.1.3 – Develop a more involved presence in the local wildland fire suppression community so as to ensure that this objective is met.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.1.4 – Consider the following criteria in establishing fire management priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter and public safety is the first priority (USDA and USDI 2004). • Other priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protect cultural and natural resources. ○ Protect areas with highly erodible soils. ○ Protect Riparian Habitat 	<p>Objective WF-C1.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.1.1 – Use the wildland fire situation analysis (WFSA) process to employ suppression tactics for resource benefits.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.1.2 – Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) in special areas (e.g., WSA, ACEC, Recreation Sites, etc.).</p> <p>Action WF-C1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B. Continue on page 2-75</p>	<p>Objective WF-D1.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.1.1 – Strive for full suppression on all fire starts within or near wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas, and reach control status within one operational period.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.1.2 – Use the WFSA process to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify suppression tactics appropriate for threatened resources. • Employ suppression tactics to protect valuable resources and assets while adhering to minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) in special management areas (e.g., WSA, ACEC, Recreation Sites, etc.). <p>Action WF-D1.1.3 – Develop a more involved presence in the local wildland fire suppression community so as to ensure that this objective is met.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.1.4 – Consider the following criteria in establishing fire management priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter and public safety is the first priority (USDA and USDI 2004). • Other priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protect cultural and natural resources. ○ Protect areas with highly erodible soils. ○ Protect Riparian Conservation

Wildland Fire Management (WF)

	Conservation Areas (RHAs) consistent with the Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs).	Areas (RCAs) consistent with the Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Protect areas at risk of invasion by nonnative plant species. o Protect commercial forest resources and plantations. o Protect active grazing allotments and improvements. o Protect and/or maintain municipal watersheds and SSS and habitats. o Protect developed recreation sites and structures on public lands. o Minimize the cost of fire protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Protect areas at risk of invasion by nonnative plant species. o Protect investments in forest resources. o Protect active grazing allotments and improvements. o Protect and/or maintain municipal watersheds and SSS and habitats. o Protect developed recreation sites and structures on public lands. o Minimize the cost of fire protection.
Objective WF-A1.2 – Stabilize and prevent degradation to natural and cultural resources; minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effect of a fire, and repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources.	Objective WF-B1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective WF-D1.2 – Same as Alternative A.
Action WF-A1.2.1 – When needed, implement emergency stabilization activities as soon as possible, and compete within one year after containment of a wildfire.	Action WF-B1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action WF-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.
	Action WF-B1.2.2 – Restrictions, such as closures, may be imposed during times of severe fire danger to mitigate the risk of wildfire fire, in accordance with the Idaho Fire Restriction Agreement, which is administered by the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group.	Action WF-D1.2.2 – Access and use restrictions, such as closures, may be imposed during times of severe fire danger to mitigate the risk of wildfire fire, in accordance with the Idaho Fire Restriction Agreement, which is administered by the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group.
	Action WF-B1.2.3 – Apply Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) in special designations areas (e.g., WSA, ACEC, Recreation Sites, etc.)	Action WF-D1.2.3 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective WF-A1.3 – Repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally, and repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire.	Objective WF-B1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective WF-D1.3 – Same as Alternative A.
Action WF-A1.3.1 – When needed, implement rehabilitation activities as soon as possible, and complete within three years after a wildfire.	Action WF-B1.3.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action WF-D1.3.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Wildland Fire Management (WF)

<p>Objective WF-B1.4 – Allow wildland fire use for resource benefits.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.4.1 – Approximately 52,319 acres have potential for wildland fire use to provide resource benefits and not damage economically valuable resources or assets.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.4.2 – Develop plans for implementing wildland fire use in identified areas.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.4.3 – Develop a more involved presence in the local wildland fire suppression community so as to ensure that this objective is met.</p>	<p>Objective WF-C1.4 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.4.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.4.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.4.3 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Objective WF-D1.4 – Allow wildland fire use in areas outside of the WUI.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.4.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.4.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.4.3 – Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Objective WF-B1.5 – Improve or protect economically valuable resources through the use of fuels treatment activities.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.5.1 – Identify areas where fuels treatments will improve or protect economically valuable resources and emphasize use of small diameter trees.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.5.2 – Develop treatment plan for identified areas. Areas identified for improvement and/or protection will emphasize commercially valuable resources (e.g., timber, recreation, and mining).</p> <p>Action WF-B1.5.3 – Conduct thinning on identified areas.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.5.4 – Develop a more involved presence in the local wildland fire suppression community so as to ensure that this objective is met.</p>	<p>Objective WF-C1.5 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.5.1 – Identify areas where fuels treatments will improve or protect noncommodity natural resources.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.5.2 – Develop treatment plans for identified areas. Areas identified for improvement and/or protection will emphasize noncommodity resources (e.g., wildlife habitat).</p> <p>Action WF-C1.5.3 – Conduct thinning on identified areas.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.5.4 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Objective WF-D1.5 – Improve or protect valuable resources through the use of fuels treatment activities.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.5.1 – Identify areas where fuels treatments will improve or protect economically valuable resources and emphasize use of small diameter trees.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.5.2 – Identify areas where fuels treatments will improve or protect noncommodity natural resources.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.5.3 – Develop treatment plan for identified areas. Treatments to areas identified for improvement and/or protection will emphasize the resource at greatest risk (e.g., timber, recreation, mining, watershed, vegetation, and wildlife habitat), when site conditions are suitable.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.5.4 – Conduct thinning on identified areas.</p>
<p>Objective WF-B1.6 – Reduce impact from wildfire to WUI areas, municipal watersheds, and infrastructure.</p> <p>Action WF-B1.6.1 – Identify areas where fuels treatments will reduce hazards, and emphasize use of small diameter trees.</p>	<p>Objective WF-C1.6 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-C1.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Objective WF-D1.6 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action WF-D1.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p>

Wildland Fire Management (WF)

Action WF-B1.6.2 – Develop Management Ignited Fire Plan (MIFP) for identified areas.	Action WF-C1.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WF-D1.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WF-B1.6.3 – Conduct mechanical fuels treatments on identified areas.	Action WF-C1.6.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WF-D1.6.3 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WF-B1.6.4 – Conduct outreach to educate the public on prevention of wildland fire (county mitigation plans and North Idaho Fire Prevention CO-OP).	Action WF-C1.6.4 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WF-D1.6.4 – Same as Alternative B.
Action WF-B1.6.5 – Develop a more involved presence in the local wildland fire suppression community so as to ensure that this objective is met.	Action WF-C1.6.5 – Same as Alternative B.	Action WF-D1.6.5 – Coordinate BLM activities with adjacent land owners and other management agencies.

Cultural Resources (CR)

Goal CR-1 – Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective CR-A1.1 – Conduct proactive cultural resource inventories in priority areas.	Objective CR-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective CR-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective CR-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A1.1.1 – Identify priority areas based on cultural resource data gaps to focus priority inventory efforts.	Action CR-B1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A1.1.2 – Consult with Native American tribes to identify Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).	Action CR-B1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-C1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.
	Action CR-B1.1.3 – Conduct background research identifying potential trail routes and implement on-the-ground inventories to record segments of the Mullan Trail.	Action CR-C1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action CR-D1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective CR-A1.2 – Identify cultural properties requiring physical or administrative protection measures to protect site integrity and implement necessary measures.	Objective CR-B1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective CR-C1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective CR-D1.2 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A1.2.1 – Monitor and assess cultural resources or TCPs to determine if cultural resource objectives are being met.	Action CR-B1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-C1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A1.2.2 – Recommend site protection measures to protect at-risk sites.	Action CR-B1.2.2 – Develop a long-term monitoring schedule by 2009 that identifies	Action CR-C1.2.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action CR-D1.2.2 – Same as Alternative B.

Cultural Resources (CR)

a representative sample of sites or TCPs that will be examined on an annual basis.

Action CR-A1.2.3 – Confine motorized vehicle use, including snowmobiles, to designated roads in the Rochat Divide Area.

Action CR-B1.2.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action CR-C1.2.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action CR-D1.2.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action CR-B1.2.4 – Designate no surface occupancy (NSO-3) for leasable minerals along the Rochat Divide ridge system.

Action CR-C1.2.4 – Mineral development and other authorized activities in the Rochat Divide area will be managed as prescribed for the Rochat Divide ACEC (see SD-C1.10).

Action CR-D1.2.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Action CR-B1.2.5 – Identify opportunities for cultural heritage education to emphasize important cultural resource values and to assist in protecting sites or areas.

Action CR-C1.2.5 – Same as Alternative B.

Objective CR-A1.3 – Standardize cultural site record information and evaluation documentation to allocate sites to cultural use categories.

Objective CR-D1.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action CR-A1.3.1 – Update existing cultural records when opportunities arise.

Action CR-B1.3.1 – Establish a schedule to update existing cultural records on an annual basis by 2009. Information needed to better allocate resource use categories includes site characteristics, chronological placement, geomorphic relationships, and overall data potential. Methodology to collect such information may include, but would not be limited to, detailed photography, intensive mapping, excavations, geomorphic analysis, and other forms of analyses.

Action CR-D1.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action CR-A1.3.2 – Sites or areas will be evaluated and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Action CR-B1.3.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Action CR-D1.3.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Objective CR-A1.4 – Develop cultural resource management plans for significant cultural resources or TCPs.

Objective CR-B1.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Objective CR-D1.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action CR-A1.4.1 – Identify sites and/or areas requiring the development of cultural resource management plans.

Action CR-B1.4.1 – Prepare cultural resource management plans for the Rochat Divide area and Liberal King Mill.

Action CR-D1.4.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action CR-B1.4.2 – Identify additional sites and/or areas requiring the development of cultural resource management plans.

Action CR-D1.4.2 – Same as Alternative B.

Goal CR-2 – Reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resources uses, by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.

Cultural Resources (CR)

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective CR-A2.1 – Determine potential effects from proposed land use authorizations.	Objective CR-B2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective CR-C2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective CR-D2.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A2.1.1 – Identify and evaluate sites and/or TCPs to determine potential effects.	Action CR-B2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-C2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-D2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A2.1.2 – Implement existing protocol agreement with State Historic Preservation Office to streamline the consultation process.	Action CR-B2.1.2 – Develop new and/or implement existing protocol agreements with State Historic Preservation Office and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Office to streamline the consultation process.	Action CR-C2.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action CR-D2.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.
Action CR-A2.1.3 – Complete government-to-government consultation with Native American tribes.	Action CR-B2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-C2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-D2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.
Action CR-A2.1.4 – Minimize effects to site integrity by ensuring consideration of cultural resources early in the project planning process and by project redesign, cancellation, or mitigation when significant cultural resources are identified from inventories or consultation.	Action CR-B2.1.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-C2.1.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Action CR-D2.1.4 – Same as Alternative A.
	Action CR-B2.1.5 – Monitor a sample of previously completed land use authorizations on an annual basis to determine if site objectives were met.	Action CR-C2.1.5 – Same as Alternative B.	Action CR-D2.1.5 – Same as Alternative B.

Paleontological Resources (PR)

<i>Goal PR-1 – Preserve and protect significant paleontological resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses.</i>			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective PR-A1.1 – Identify areas with paleontological resources.	Objective PR-B1.1 – Identify priority geographic areas for field inventory and protect recorded sites.	Objective PR-C1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective PR-D1.1 – Same as Alternative B.
Action PR-A1.1.1 – Inventory areas that may contain paleontological resources prior to land use authorizations.	Action PR-B1.1.1 – Identify and inventory areas that may contain significant paleontological resources.	Action PR-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action PR-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Paleontological Resources (PR)

Action PR-B1.1.1.2 – Inventory areas that may contain paleontological resources prior to land use authorizations.	Action PR-C1.1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action PR-D1.1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.
Action PR-B1.1.1.3 – Develop appropriate measures to protect identified paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis.	Action PR-C1.1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action PR-D1.1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Visual Resources (VR)

Goal VR-1 – *Manage landscapes across the public lands in a manner that will protect scenic quality values and promote aesthetically pleasing surroundings.*

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective VR-A1.1 – Assign visual resource management class designations consistent with resource management prescriptions described throughout this alternative, and then design and implement actions to meet the assigned class objectives.	Objective VR-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective VR-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective VR-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action VR-A1.1.1 – As mapped (Map 6), manage visual resources on BLM lands under the following management class designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I: 21,714 acres (Wilderness Study Areas – common to all alternatives) • Class II: 14,312 acres • Class III: 33,259 acres • Class IV: 27,480 acres 	Action VR-B1.1.1 – As mapped (Map 6), manage visual resources on BLM lands under the following class designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I: 21,714 acres • Class II: 14,312 acres • Class III: 33,259 acres • Class IV: 27,480 acres 	Action VR-C1.1.1 – As mapped (Map 7), manage visual resources on BLM lands under the following class designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I: 21,714 acres • Class II: 42,273 acres • Class III: 31,429 acres • Class IV: 1,350 acres 	Action VR-D1.1.1 – As mapped (Map 8), manage visual resources on BLM lands under the following class designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I: 21,714 acres • Class II: 23,551 acres • Class III: 50,152 acres • Class IV: 1,350 acres
Action VR-A1.1.2 – If or when the Grandmother Mountain or Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the released area will be managed under a Class II designation except where lands continue to be managed under other special designations that warrant continuation of VRM Class I management.	Action VR-B1.1.2 – If or when the Grandmother Mountain or Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the released area would be managed under a VRM Class II designation.	Action VR-C1.1.2 – If or when the Grandmother Mountain or Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Areas are released from further study, the released area will continue to be managed under a Class I designation based on other special management needs identified under Alternative C.	Action VR-D1.1.2 – If or when the Grandmother Mountain or Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the released area would be managed under a VRM Class II designation, except for Lund Creek RNA within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which will continue to be managed under VRM Class I.

Visual Resources (VR)

Action VR-A1.1.3 – If or when the Selkirk Crest Wilderness Study Area is released by Congress from further study, it will be managed under a VRM Class II designation.

Action VR-A1.1.4 – Lands acquired by the BLM subsequent to adoption of this resource management plan would be managed in accordance with the mapped management class delineations of this alternative.

Action VR-A1.1.5 – For new mineral leases within VRM Class II areas, specify controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-1 see Appendix H).

Action VR-B1.1.3 – If or when the Selkirk Crest Wilderness Study Area is released by Congress from further study, it will be managed under a VRM Class III designation.

Action VR-B1.1.4 – Lands acquired by the BLM subsequent to adoption of this resource management plan would be managed in accordance with the mapped management class delineations of this alternative.

Action VR-B1.1.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Action VR-C1.1.3 – If or when the Selkirk Crest Wilderness Study Area is released by Congress from further study, it will be managed under a VRM Class II designation.

Action VR-C1.1.4 – Lands acquired by the BLM subsequent to adoption of this resource management plan would be managed in accordance with the mapped management class delineations of this alternative.

Action VR-C1.1.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Action VR-D1.1.3 – If or when the Selkirk Crest Wilderness Study Area is released by Congress from further study, it will be managed under a VRM Class III designation.

Action VR-D1.1.4 – Lands acquired by the BLM subsequent to adoption of this resource management plan would be managed in accordance with the mapped management class delineations of this alternative.

Action VR-D1.1.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Resource Uses

Forestry and Woodland Products (FP)

Goal FP-1 – Provide to help meet local and national demands for wood products (sawlogs, biomass, fire wood, hog fuel, etc.) while protecting the natural component of the environment.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective FP-A1.1 – Provide a PSQ of 3.7 MMBF/year over 15 years of commercial forest products (e.g., saw timber, hew wood, pulp, fuel wood, biomass fuel, etc.) from vegetation treatments designed to improve forest health on at least 7,000 acres (includes WUI).</p> <p>Action FP-A1.1.1 – Identify and treat areas to promote forest health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retain large diameter trees. ○ Treat areas with excessive forest fuel loading and ingrowth. ○ Treat areas with insect or disease infestation. 	<p>Objective FP-B1.1 – Provide a PSQ of 5.1 MMBF/year over 15 years of commercial forest products (e.g., saw timber, hew wood, pulp, fuel wood, biomass, etc.) from vegetation treatments designed to improve forest health on at least 9,600 acres (7,000 + High Priority WUI acres).</p> <p>Action FP-B1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Objective FP-C1.1 – Provide a PSQ of 880 MMBF/year over 15 years of commercial forest products (e.g., saw timber, hew wood, pulp, fuel wood, biomass, etc.) from vegetation treatments designed to improve forest health on at least 1,200 acres.</p> <p>Action FP-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Objective FP-D1.1 – Provide a PSQ of 4.4 MMBF/year over 15 years of commercial forest products (e.g., saw timber, hew wood, pulp, fuel wood, biomass, etc.) from vegetation treatments designed to improve forest health on at least 8,200 acres.</p> <p>Action FP-D1.1.1 – Identify and treat areas to promote forest health and restore forest stands to historic species composition, structure, and function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain large diameter trees when consistent with treatment objectives. • Treat areas with excessive forest fuel loading and ingrowth. • Treat areas with insect or disease infestation. • Treat areas where other disturbances have occurred (e.g., fire, ice storm, etc.).

Forestry and Woodland Products (FP)

Action FP-A1.1.2 – 33,750 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments using a full complement of harvest systems and other treatment methods.

Action FP-A1.1.3 – 22,815 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments with restrictions to achieve special management objectives (e.g., ACEC, SRMA, deer/elk winter range, VRM II, etc.).

Action FP-A1.1.4 – Vegetation harvest treatments will not be allowed on 25,991 acres (e.g., WSA, ACEC, INFISH Buffers, etc.), except under special circumstances identified in management decisions for the protected resources.

Action FP-B1.1.2 – 7,282 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments using a full complement of harvest systems and other treatment methods.

Action FP-B1.1.3 – 49,283 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments with restrictions to achieve special management objectives (e.g., ACEC, SRMA, deer/elk winter range, VRM II, etc.).

Action FP-B1.1.4 – Vegetation harvest treatments will not be allowed on 25,991 acres (e.g., WSA, ACEC, CNFISH Buffers, etc.), except under special circumstances identified in management decisions for the protected resources.

Action FP-B1.1.5 – Salvage forest products that result from any natural disturbance that occurs on 7,282 acres using a full complement of harvest systems and other treatment methods.

Action FP-B1.1.6 – Salvage forest products that result from any natural disturbance that occurs on 49,283 acres with restrictions to achieve special management objectives (e.g., ACEC, SRMA, deer/elk winter range, VRM II etc.).

Action FP-C1.1.2 – 7,017 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments using a full complement of harvest systems and other treatment methods.

Action FP-C1.1.3 – 49,536 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments with restrictions to achieve special management objectives (e.g., Some ACEC, SRMA, deer/elk winter range, VRM II, etc.).

Action FP-C1.1.4 – Vegetation harvest treatments will not be allowed on 26,003 acres (e.g., WSA, Some ACEC, CNFISH Buffers, etc.), except under special circumstances identified in management decisions for the protected resources.

Action FP-C1.1.5 – Salvage forest products that result from any natural disturbance that occurs on 7,017 acres using a full complement of harvest systems and other treatment methods.

Action FP-C1.1.6 – Salvage forest products that result from any natural disturbance that occurs on 49,536 acres with restrictions to achieve special management objectives (e.g., Some ACEC, SRMA, deer/elk winter range, VRM II etc.).

Action FP-D1.1.2 – 4,590 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments using a full complement of harvest systems and other treatment methods.

Action FP-D1.1.3 – 51,704 acres would be available for forest vegetation treatments with restrictions to achieve special management objectives (e.g., Some ACEC, SRMA, deer/elk winter range, VRM II, etc.).

Action FP-D1.1.4 – Vegetation harvest treatments will not be allowed on 26,262 acres (e.g., WSA, Some ACEC, CNFISH Buffers, etc.), except under special circumstances identified in management decisions for the protected resources.

Action FP-D1.1.5 – Salvage forest products from areas where disturbances have occurred (e.g., fire, ice storm, wind storm, etc.) within constraints as defined in other resource management sections.

Action FP-D1.1.6 – Recover commercial forest products resulting from other authorized uses (e.g., R/W Grants, Mining Activities, Special Use Permits, Road Maintenance, fire wood permits, etc.).

Objective FP-A1.2 – Recover commercial forest products resulting from other authorized uses.

Action FP-A1.2.1 – Recover forest products resulting from R/W Grants, Mining Activities, Special Use Permits, Road Maintenance, etc.

Objective FP-B1.2. – Same as Alternative A.

Action FP-B1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Objective FP-C1.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Action FP – C1.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Livestock Grazing (LG)

Goal LG-1 – Provide opportunities for grazing while meeting Rangeland Health Standards.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective LG-A1.1 – Maintain approximately 4,004 acres available for livestock grazing while assuring rangeland health standards and guidelines are being met.</p>	<p>Objective LG-B1.1 – Maintain approximately 4,004 acres available for livestock grazing while assuring rangeland health standards and guidelines are being met.</p>	<p>Objective LG-C1.1 – Maintain approximately 1,218 acres (currently leased allotments) available for livestock grazing while assuring rangeland health standards and guidelines are being met, as long as there is a public demand</p>	<p>Objective LG-D1.1 – Maintain up to approximately 1,218 acres available for livestock grazing, while assuring rangeland health standards and guidelines are being met.</p>

Livestock Grazing (LG)

for this use.			
Action LG-A1.1.1 – Lands leased for livestock grazing will continue to be leased for that use.	Action LG-B1.1.1 – Allotments will continue to be leased for livestock grazing.	Action LG-C1.1.1 – Existing active allotments will continue to be available for livestock grazing, unless there is no demand for this use or allotment review indicates this is not an appropriate use.	Action LG-D1.1.1 – Existing allotments will continue to be available for livestock grazing, unless there is no demand this use.
Action LG-A1.1.2 – Management will be a custodial type with no intensive management activities undertaken.			
Action LG-A1.1.3 – Leases will be adjusted to a proper use level as determined by the carrying capacity of the land.			
Action LG-A1.1.4 – On non-AMP allotments, materials and labor for construction and maintenance of range improvements, designed primarily to benefit livestock, including cattleguards, will be furnished by the lessee.			
Action LG-A1.1.5 – Construction and maintenance of rangeland improvements, including cattleguards, not designed primarily to benefit livestock grazing will be assumed by the BLM or other nonlivestock cooperators.			
Action LG-A1.1.6 – All new improvements will be in compliance with BLM specifications. Reconstruction costs will be borne by the lessee. RECONSTRUCTION COSTS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT OWNER.			
	Objective LG-B1.2 – Determine level management for each allotment.	Objective LG-C1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective LG-D1.2 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action LG-B1.2.1 – Within one year of Record of Decision, complete a review for each allotment and assign level of management (high/low).	Action LG-C1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action LG-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.
	Objective LG-B1.3 – Authorize livestock grazing while assuring that watersheds; riparian/wetlands; stream channel/floodplain; native plant communities; seedings; exotic plant	Objective LG-C1.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective LG-D1.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Livestock Grazing (LG)

communities; water quality; and threatened and endangered plant/animal objectives are being met.

Action LG-B1.3.1 – Conduct monitoring to assure that resource objectives are being met.

Action LG-C1.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action LG-D1.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Minerals (MN)

Fluid – Oil and Gas, Tar Sands, Geothermal Resources, and Coal Bed Natural Gas

Goal MN- 1. – Make fluid minerals available for exploration, acquisition, and production consistent with other resource goals.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B – Commodity – Utility	Alternative C – Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective MN-A1.1 – Identify areas open to leasing subject to minor and major constraints to protect resources.	Objective MN-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective MN-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective MN-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action MN-A1.1.1 – 73,587 acres open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.	Action MN-B1.1.1 – 73,587 acres open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. Some of these acres have further constraints, as defined in the following actions (Map 17).	Action MN-C1.1.1 – 73,587 acres open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. Some of these acres have further constraints, as defined in the following actions (Map 18).	Action MN-D1.1.1 – 73,587 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. Some of these acres have further constraints, as defined in the following actions (Map 19).
Action MN-A1.1.2 – 23,183 acres are closed to leasing (WSAs and existing withdrawals) (Map 16).	Action MN-B1.1.2 – 14,721 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and no surface occupancy (NSO) constraint to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 17).	Action MN-C1.1.2 – 27,805 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and no surface occupancy (NSO) constraint to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 18).	Action MN-D1.1.2 – 27,641 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and no surface occupancy (NSO) constraint to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 19).
	Action MN-B1.1.3 – 66,391 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and Conditional Surface Use constraints to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 17).	Action MN-C1.1.3 – 66,567 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and Conditional Surface Use constraints to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 18).	Action MN-D1.1.3 – 65,799 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and Conditional Surface Use constraints to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 19).
	Action MN-B1.1.4 – 27,852 acres are open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form and timing limitations to protect resources (See Appendix H) (Map 17).	Action MN-C1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B (Map 18).	Action MN-D1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B (Map 19).
	Action MN-B1.1.5 – (Same as MN-A1.1.2) 23,183 acres are closed to leasing (WSAs and existing withdrawals) (Map 17).	Action MN-C1.1.5 – (Same As MN-A1.1.2) 23,183 acres are closed to leasing (WSAs and existing withdrawals) (Map 18).	Action MN-D1.1.5 – (Same As MN-A1.1.2) 23,183 acres are closed to leasing (WSAs and existing withdrawals) (Map 19).

Minerals (MN)

Solid Minerals – Locatable, Mineral Materials, and Leasable			
Goal MN-2 – Make locatable minerals, mineral materials, and non-energy leasable minerals available for exploration, acquisition, and production consistent with other resource goals.			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective MN-A2.1 – Identify area(s) open to the operation of the mining laws, mineral material disposal, and solid mineral leasing.	Objective MN-B2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective MN-C2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective MN-D2.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action MN-A2.1.1 – 91,394 acres are open to the operation of mining laws. 5,376 acres are withdrawn from operation of mining laws (Map 15).	Action MN-B2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A (Map 15).	Action MN-C2.1.1 – 67,024 acres are open to the operation of mining laws. 29,746 acres are withdrawn from operation of mining laws (Map 15).	Action MN-D2.1.1 – 91,367 acres would be open to the operation of the mining laws; 5,403 acres would be closed to the operation of the mining laws, pending approval of recommended withdrawals (Map 15).
Action MN-A2.1.2 – 73,587 acres are open to solid mineral leasing and mineral material disposal. 23,183 acres are withdrawn from solid mineral leasing and mineral material disposal (Map 16).	Action MN-B2.1.2 – Same as Alternative A (Map 17).	Action MN-C2.1.2 – Same as Alternative A (Map 18).	Action MN-D2.1.2 – Same as Alternative A (Map 19).
	Action MN-B2.1.3 – Surface use stipulations outlined in Appendix H will apply to solid mineral leasing and mineral material disposal (Map 17).	Action MN-C2.1.3 – Same as Alternative B (Map 18).	Action MN-D2.1.3 – Same as Alternative B (Map 19).

Recreation (RC)

Goal RC-1 – Provide opportunities for quality outdoor recreation experiences ensuring enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on BLM-managed or partnered lands and waters.				Alternative C: Conservation – Protection		Alternative D: Preferred	
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.		Alternative B: Commodity – Utility		Objective RC-C1.1 – Identify and classify units of public land on which to provide prescribed outdoor recreation opportunities with an emphasis towards undeveloped/dispersed recreation-tourism markets.		Objective RC-D1.1 – Identify and classify units of public land on which to provide prescribed outdoor recreation opportunities with a mixed emphasis towards both community recreation-tourism markets and undeveloped/dispersed recreation tourism markets.	
Objective RC-A1.1 – Identify and classify units of public land on which to provide prescribed outdoor recreation opportunities.		Objective RC-B1.1 – Identify and classify units of public land on which to provide prescribed outdoor recreation opportunities with an emphasis towards community recreation-tourism markets.					

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-A1.1.1 – Establish the following recreation management areas (Map 20):

	Rural	Roaded Natural	Semi- primitive	Total
Coeur d'Alene Lake	215	1,971	0	2,186
Lower Coeur d'Alene River	244	403	0	647
Gamlin Lake	192	225	0	417
Extensive	4,729	41,191	47,601	93,521
Total	5,380	43,790	47,601	

Action RC-B1.1.1 – Establish the following recreation management areas, identifying a corresponding market for each special recreation management area (SRMA) (Map 21):

	Rural	Roaded Natural	Semi- primitive	Total
Coeur d'Alene Lake (Community-based market)	215	1,971	0	2,186
Lower Coeur d'Alene River (Community-based market)	244	403	0	647
Gamlin Lake (Community-based market)	194	1,701	0	1,895
Rochat Divide/Pine Creek (Undeveloped/dispersed market)	0	13,371	29,022	42,393
Silver Valley (Community-based market)	3,046	13,167	434	16,647
Huckleberry Campground (Community-based market)	77	83	0	160
Extensive (Custodial management – no target market)	1,603	13,094	18,145	32,842
Total	5,379	43,790	47,601	

Action RC-C1.1.1 – Establish the following recreation management areas, identifying a corresponding market for each special recreation management area (SRMA) (Map 22):

	Rural	Roaded Natural	Semi- primitive	Total
Coeur d'Alene Lake (Community-based market)	215	1,971	0	2,186
Gamlin Lake (Undeveloped/dispersed market)	192	225	0	417
Rochat Divide/Pine Creek (Undeveloped/dispersed market)	0	13,371	29,022	42,393
Killamey Lake (Community-based market)	0	247	0	247
Widow Mountain (Undeveloped/dispersed market)	0	612	15,012	15,624
Extensive (Custodial management – no target market)	4,972	27,365	3,567	35,904
Total	5,379	43,791	47,601	

Action RC-D1.1.1 – Establish the following recreation management areas, identifying a corresponding market for each special recreation management area (SRMA) (Map 23):

	Rural	Roaded Natural	Semi- primitive	Total
Coeur d'Alene Lake (Community-based market)	215	1,971	0	2,186
Killamey Lake (Community-based market)	0	247	0	247
Gamlin Lake (Community-based market)	194	1,701	0	1,895
Rochat Divide/Pine Creek (Undeveloped/dispersed market)	0	13,371	29,022	42,393
Silver Valley (Community-based market)	3,046	13,167	434	16,647
Widow Mountain (Undeveloped/dispersed market)	0	612	15,012	15,624
Huckleberry Campground (Community-based market)	77	83	0	160
Extensive (Custodial management – no target market)	1,847	12,639	3,133	17,619
Total	5,379	43,791	47,601	

Objective RC-A1.2 – Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide rural and roaded-natural recreation opportunities emphasizing general leisure, fishing, and water

Objective RC-B1.2 – Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for local residents and visiting tourists to engage in land- and water-based leisure activities for outdoor sport, relaxation,

Objective RC-C1.2 – Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in land- and water-based leisure activities for outdoor sport, relaxation, social group or family affiliation, and

Objective RC-D1.2 – Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in land- and water-based leisure activities for outdoor sport, relaxation, social group or family affiliation, and

Recreation (RC)

sports activity opportunities.	social group or family affiliation, and personal enrichment or learning through environmental study within accessible natural forested lakeshore settings.	personal enrichment or learning through environmental study within accessible natural forested lakeshore settings.	personal enrichment or learning through environmental study within accessible natural forested lakeshore settings.
<p>Action RC-A1.2.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified pastoral environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing paved and improved road access and motorized boat access to developed recreation facilities • Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience resource protection, and visitor health and safety. • Accommodating visitor use in developed sites at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are either not provided or are minimal • Accommodating visitor use outside of developed sites at moderate levels where contact between visitors may be less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment may either be present or prevalent • Providing a regular periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety 	<p>Action RC-B1.2.1 – Same as in Alternative A. Continued on page 2-87</p>	<p>Action RC-C1.2.1 – Same as in Alternative A. Continued on page 2-87</p>	<p>Action RC-D1.2.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified pastoral environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing paved and improved road access and motorized boat access to developed recreation facilities • Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety • Accommodating visitor use in developed sites at moderate to high levels, where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are either not provided or are minimal • Accommodating visitor use outside of developed sites at moderate levels, where contact between visitors may be less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment may either be present or prevalent • Providing a regular periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-A1.2.2 – Maintain the following recreation facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at the indicated Maintenance Level (ML) where:

ML 1	low maintenance intensity
ML 2	moderate maintenance intensity
ML 3	high maintenance intensity

Action RC-B1.2.2 – Maintain the following recreation facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at the indicated Maintenance Level (ML) where:

ML 1	low maintenance intensity
ML 2	moderate maintenance intensity
ML 3	high maintenance intensity

Action RC-C1.2.2 – Same as in Alternative A. Map 22 displays developed recreation sites under Alternative C.

Action RC-D1.2.2 – Maintain the following recreation facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at the indicated Maintenance Level (ML) where:

ML 1	low maintenance intensity
ML 2	moderate maintenance intensity
ML 3	high maintenance intensity

Facility (Map 20)	ML
Beauty Bay Recreation Site	2
Blackwell Island Recreation Site	3
Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped)	1
Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area (undeveloped)	1
Mica Bay Boater Park	2
Mineral Ridge Boat Launch	2
Mineral Ridge Scenic Area	2
Ross Point (undeveloped)	1
Windy Bay Boater Park	2

Action RC-A1.2.3 – Operate developed sites as fee areas where federal fee collection criteria are met (Map 20). This would include the following:

- Blackwell Island Recreation Site
- Mica Bay Boater Park

Facility (Map 21)	ML
Beauty Bay Recreation Site	2
Blackwell Island Recreation Site	3
Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped)	2
Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area (undeveloped)	2
Mica Bay Boater Park	3
Mineral Ridge Boat Launch	2
Mineral Ridge Scenic Area	3
Ross Point (undeveloped)	2
Windy Bay Boater Park	2

Action RC-B1.2.3 – Operate developed sites as fee areas where federal fee collection criteria are met (Map 21). This would include the following:

- Blackwell Island Recreation Site
- Mica Bay Boater Park

Facility (Map 23)	ML
Beauty Bay Recreation Site	2
Blackwell Island Recreation Site	3
Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped)	2
Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area (undeveloped)	2
Mica Bay Boater Park	3
Mineral Ridge Boat Launch	2
Mineral Ridge Scenic Area	3
Ross Point (undeveloped)	2
Windy Bay Boater Park	2

Action RC-D1.2.3 – Operate developed sites as fee areas where federal fee collection criteria are met. This would include the following (Map 23):

- Blackwell Island Recreation Site
- Mica Bay Boater Park

Recreation (RC)

- Windy Bay Boater Park

- Windy Bay Boater Park

- Windy Bay Boater Park

- Windy Bay Boater Park

- Mineral Ridge Boat Launch Site

- Mineral Ridge Boat Launch Site

- Mineral Ridge Boat Launch Site

- Mineral Ridge Boat Launch Site

- As new facilities are constructed, evaluate the need for assessing use fees in accordance with current guidance at the time

- As new facilities are constructed, evaluate the need for assessing use fees in accordance with current guidance at the time

Action RC-A1.2.4 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-B1.2.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-C1.2.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-D1.2.4 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-A1.2.5 – Continue to authorize by special recreation permit, existing commercial recreation uses of developed recreation sites by:

- Vendors providing delivery of rental water craft to boat launching sites.
- Youth summer camps providing overnight canoeing/sailing/boating adventures to Mica Bay and Windy Bay Boater Parks.
- Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-B1.2.5 – Continue to authorize by special recreation permit, existing commercial recreation uses of developed recreation sites by:

- Vendors providing delivery of rental water craft to boat launching sites.
- Youth summer camps providing overnight canoeing/sailing/boating adventures to Mica Bay and Windy Bay Boater Parks.
- Additionally including any new permits on a case-by-case basis.
- Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-C1.2.5 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-D1.2.5 – Continue to authorize by special recreation permit, existing commercial recreation uses of developed recreation sites by:

- Vendors providing delivery of rental water craft to boat launching sites
- Youth summer camps providing overnight canoeing/sailing/boating adventures to Mica Bay and Windy Bay Boater Parks
- Additionally including any new permits on a case-by-case basis

Action RC-A1.2.6 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect visitors and developed recreation sites or to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values that contribute to the area's unique setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II management constraints

Action RC-B1.2.6 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect visitors and developed recreation sites or to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values that contribute to the areas unique setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II management constraints

Action RC-C1.2.6 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-D1.2.6 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect visitors and developed recreation sites or to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values that contribute to the area's unique setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II management constraints

Recreation (RC)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads Closing the Blackwell Canals to motorized boats (except that portion developed for boat launching) Closing developed day-use sites to camping (overnight occupancy) Continuing other special restrictions at Blackwell Island Recreation Site, Mica Bay Boater Park, or Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped) regarding firewood collection, firearms possession, or alcohol use or possession Establishing additional rules as needed in response to changing situations Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads Closing the Blackwell Canals to motorized boats (except that portion developed for boat launching) Closing developed day-use sites to camping (overnight occupancy) Continuing other special restrictions at Blackwell Island Recreation Site, Mica Bay Boater Park, or Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped) regarding firewood collection, firearms possession, or alcohol use or possession Establishing additional rules as needed in response to changing situations Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads Closing the Blackwell Canals to motorized boats (except that portion developed for boat launching) Closing developed day-use sites to camping (overnight occupancy) Continuing other special restrictions at Blackwell Island Recreation Site, Mica Bay Boater Park, or Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped) regarding firewood collection, firearms possession, or alcohol use or possession Establishing additional rules as needed in response to changing situations Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads Closing the Blackwell Canals to motorized boats (except that portion developed for boat launching) Closing developed day-use sites to camping (overnight occupancy) Continuing other special restrictions at Blackwell Island Recreation Site, Mica Bay Boater Park, or Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped) regarding firewood collection, firearms possession, or alcohol use or possession Establishing additional rules as needed in response to changing situations Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA
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Action RC-A1.2.7 – Acquire additional lands suitable for the development of needed boating and camping facilities and for preservation of recreation resource values in accordance with the following priorities:

Action RC-B1.2.7 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-C1.2.7 – As a high priority, acquire additional lands suitable for preservation of recreation resource values, placing less emphasis on acquisitions for expanding developed facilities.

Action RC-D1.2.7 – Acquire additional lands suitable for the development of needed boating and camping facilities and for preservation of recreation resource values in accordance with the following priorities:

Recreation (RC)

- Existing recreation use areas and facilities at risk of being lost to continued public use
- Lands in proximity to Coeur d'Alene suited for boat launching and parking developments
- Lake-view lands suited for camping developments in proximity to major highway corridors
- Bald Eagle perching habitat
- Other lands with important recreation, wildlife, wetland, or riparian values

Action RC-A1.2.8 – Continue a Memorandum of Understanding with Kootenai County concerning the joint management and operation of Mica Bay and Windy Bay Boater Parks.

Action RC-A1.2.9 – Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, volunteer agreements, adoption programs, or other similar cooperative efforts.

Action RC-A1.2.10 – Continue management of the Mineral Ridge National Recreation Trail to enhance environmental education opportunities through maintenance of the existing interpretive trail and guide booklet.

Action RC-B1.2.8 – Continue a Memorandum of Understanding with Kootenai County concerning the joint management and operation of Mica Bay and Windy Bay Boater Parks and also seek to expand the cooperative working relationship where mutually beneficial.

Action RC-B1.2.9 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-B1.2.10 – Continue management of the Mineral Ridge National Recreation Trail to enhance environmental education opportunities through maintenance of the existing interpretive trail and guide booklet. Additionally, plan and construct or implement additional interpretive or environmental education sites or projects at:

- Blackwell Island Recreation Site
- Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area
- Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped)
- Loff's Bay (undeveloped)

- Existing recreation use areas and facilities at risk of being lost to continued public use
- Lands in proximity to Coeur d'Alene suited for boat launching and parking developments
- Lake-view lands suited for camping developments in proximity to major highway corridors
- Bald Eagle perching or nesting habitat
- Other lands with important recreation, wildlife, wetland, or riparian values

Action RC-D1.2.8 – Continue existing Memorandum of Understandings concerning joint recreation facility operations, but expand working relationships where possible for joint resource management activities.

Action RC-D1.2.9 – Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, volunteer agreements, adoption programs, or other similar cooperative efforts.

Action RC-D1.2.10 – Continue management of the Mineral Ridge National Recreation Trail to enhance environmental education opportunities through maintenance of the existing interpretive trail, guide booklet, and bald eagle viewing booklet. Additionally, plan and construct or implement additional interpretive or environmental education sites or projects at:

- Blackwell Island Recreation Site
- Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area
- Blue Creek Bay (undeveloped)

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-A1.2.11 – Proceed to formulate site development project plans for acquired land tracts at Blue Creek Bay and Loff's Bay in accordance with the Recreation Management Plan for the Coeur d'Alene Lake Recreation Management Area (BLM 1993).

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Action RC-B1.2.11 – Plan and implement recreation site development projects at the Wallace L Forest Conservation Area (Blue Creek Bay) to provide:

- Public camping
- Docks for day use and overnight moorage
- A community use boat launching ramp
- An upland trail system for nonmotorized uses
- Wildlife viewing and interpretive facilities

Action RC-B1.2.12 – Plan and implement site development at Loff's Bay to provide:

- Additional launch site parking
- Public camping
- Day-use picnicking, trail, wildlife viewing, and interpretive facilities

Action RC-B1.2.13 – Enter into a cooperative management agreement with the city of Post Falls and Kootenai County for their joint development and operation of a community park at Ross Point.

Action RC-B1.2.14 – Implement site development plans for Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area to provide:

- Paved access road and a six stall parking area
- Toilet facilities
- Trail and viewing deck
- Lake access trail for canoe launching

Action RC-B1.2.15 – Initiate project planning for the John C. Pointner Wildlife Sanctuary. Manage the area in conjunction with the

Action RC-C1.2.11 – Plan and implement recreation site development projects at the Wallace L Forest Conservation Area (Blue Creek Bay) to provide:

- Docks for day use and overnight moorage
- An upland trail system for nonmotorized uses
- Wildlife viewing and interpretive facilities

Action RC-C1.2.12 – Plan and implement site development at Loff's Bay to provide:

- Additional launch site parking
- Undeveloped open space and trails

Action RC-C1.2.13 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-C1.2.14 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-C1.2.15 – Same as Alternative B.

- Loff's Bay (undeveloped)

Action RC-D1.2.11 – Plan and implement recreation site development projects at the Wallace L Forest Conservation Area (Blue Creek Bay) that consider:

- Public camping
- Docks for day use and overnight moorage
- A community use boat launching ramp
- An upland trail system for nonmotorized uses
- Wildlife viewing and interpretive facilities

Action RC-D1.2.12 – Plan and implement site development at Loff's Bay that consider:

- Additional launch site parking
- Public camping
- Day-use picnicking, trail, wildlife viewing, and interpretive facilities

Action RC-D1.2.13 – Enter into a cooperative management agreement with the city of Post Falls and Kootenai County for their joint development and operation of a community park at Ross Point.

Action RC-D1.2.14 – Implement site development plans for Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area to provide:

- Paved access road and a six stall parking area
- Toilet facilities
- Trail and viewing deck
- Lake access trail for canoe launching

Action RC-D1.2.15 – Initiate project planning for the John C. Pointner Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary. Manage the area in conjunction

Recreation (RC)

Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area and consider development of trails and wildlife viewing facilities.

with the Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area and adjoining property owners, and consider development of trails and wildlife viewing facilities.

Action RC-B1.2.16 – At existing developed facilities make improvements when needed for:

- Life, safety, and health
- Accessibility compliance
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Modernization
- Resource protection

Action RC-C1.2.16 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-D1.2.16 – At existing developed facilities make improvements when needed for:

- Life, safety, and health
- Accessibility compliance
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Modernization
- Resource protection

Objective RC-A1.3 – Lower Coeur d'Alene River SRMA: Manage this area to provide roaded-natural recreation opportunities emphasizing general leisure, fishing, hunting, boating, and camping activities.

Objective RC-B1.3 – Lower Coeur d'Alene River SRMA: Manage this area to provide local residents and visiting tourists the opportunity to engage in water-based leisure for outdoor sport, relaxation, social group or family affiliation, and personal enrichment through environmental study within a unique natural wetland setting.

Objective RC-C1.3 – Killamey Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide visitors the opportunity to engage in water-based leisure for outdoor sport, relaxation, and social group or family affiliation within a unique, natural wetland setting.

Objective RC-D1.3 – Killamey Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide local residents and visiting tourists the opportunity to engage in water-based leisure for outdoor sport, relaxation, and social group or family affiliation within a unique, natural wetland setting.

Action RC-A1.3 1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural setting (which are characterized by a culturally modified pastoral environment or by a natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sound of man) by:

- Providing improved road access and motorized boat access to developed recreation facilities
- Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety
- Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate levels where contact between visitors is common and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but outside of developed sites where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to

Action RC-B1.3 1 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-C1.3 1 – Maintain the existing roaded-natural setting around Killamey Lake the same as in Alternative A.

Action RC-D1.3 1 – Maintain the existing roaded-natural setting (which is characterized by a culturally modified pastoral environment or by a natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sound of man) by:

- Providing improved road access and motorized boat access to developed recreation facilities
- Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety
- Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate levels where contact between visitors is common and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but outside of developed sites where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to

Recreation (RC)

interact with the natural environment are prevalent

- Providing indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety

interact with the natural environment are prevalent

- Providing indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety

Action RC-A1.3.2 – Maintain Killarney Lake Boat launch, Killarney Lake Picnic Site, and Popcorn Island facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at a moderate maintenance intensity level.

Action RC-B1.3.2 – Maintain the three existing recreation sites in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at a moderate maintenance intensity level. Make improvements when needed for:

- Life, safety, and health
- Accessibility compliance
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Modernization
- Resource protection

Action RC-C1.3.2 – Maintain the three existing recreation sites in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at a moderate maintenance intensity level. Make improvements when needed for:

- Life, safety, and health
- Accessibility compliance
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Resource protection

Action RC-D1.3.2 – Maintain Killarney Lake Boat launch, Killarney Lake Picnic Site, and Popcorn Island facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at a moderate maintenance intensity level. Make improvements when needed for:

- Life, safety, and health
- Accessibility compliance
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Modernization
- Resource protection

Action RC-A1.3.3 – Operate developed sites as fee areas where they meet federal fee collection criteria. This includes the Killarney Lake Boat Launch site (fee for overnight camping).

Action RC-B1.3.3 – Continue to charge a fee for overnight camping use at the Killarney Lake Boat Launch.

Action RC-C1.3.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-D1.3.3 – Operate developed sites as fee areas where they meet federal fee collection criteria. This includes the Killarney Lake Boat Launch site (fee for overnight camping).

Action RC-A1.3.4 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-B1.3.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-C1.3.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-D1.3.4 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-A1.3.5 – Limit resource management actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values

Action RC-B1.3.5 – Limit resource management actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values

Action RC-C1.3.5 – Limit resource management actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values

Action RC-D1.3.5 – Limit resource management actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, and wildlife resource values

Recreation (RC)

that contribute to the areas unique setting by:	that contribute to the areas unique setting by:	that contribute to the area's unique setting by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying VRM Class II and III management constraints (as mapped) • Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying VRM Class II and III management constraints (as mapped) • Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads • Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites • Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying VRM Class II management constraints • Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads • Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites • Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA • Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites • Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA
<p>Action RC-A1.3.6 – Conduct activity-level planning to resolve facility development and visitor health and safety issue. Proceed cooperatively with other involved agencies to produce an integrated plan.</p> <p>Action RC-A1.3.7 – Provide signs, brochures, and take other outreach actions advising visitors of potential health risks related to metals contamination.</p> <p>Action RC-A1.3.8 – Continue the R&PP lease to Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation at Old Mission State Park.</p>	<p>Action RC-B1.3.6 – Conduct activity-level planning to resolve facility development and visitor health and safety issues the same as in Alternative A. Proceed cooperatively with other involved agencies to produce an integrated plan.</p> <p>Action RC-B1.3.7 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action RC-B1.3.8 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action RC-B1.3.9 – Acquire additional shore lands suitable for boat access camping areas.</p>	<p>Action RC-C1.3.6 – Conduct activity-level planning to resolve visitor health and safety issues.</p> <p>Action RC-C1.3.7 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action RC-D1.3.6 – Conduct activity-level planning to resolve facility development and visitor health and safety issues the same as in Alternative A. Proceed cooperatively with other involved agencies to produce an integrated plan.</p> <p>Action RC-D1.3.7 – Provide signs, brochures, and take other outreach actions advising visitors of potential health risks related to metals contamination.</p>
<p>Objective RC-A1.4 – Gamlin Lake SRMA: Manage this area to provide rural and roaded-natural recreation opportunities emphasizing general leisure, wildlife viewing, and fishing</p>	<p>Objective RC-B1.4 – Gamlin Lake (Expanded) SRMA: Manage this area for local community residents to engage in day-use nonmotorized trail or water-related activities for personal</p>	<p>Objective RC-D1.4 – Gamlin Lake (Expanded) SRMA: Manage this area for local residents and visitors to engage in day-use nonmotorized trail or water-related activities for personal relaxation</p>

Recreation (RC)

activities.

relaxation or reflection, exercise or fitness, and personal enrichment or learning through environmental study.	reflection, exercise or fitness, and personal enrichment or learning through environmental study.	or reflection, exercise or fitness, and personal enrichment or learning through environmental study.
<p>Action RC-A1.4.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized as culturally modified pastoral environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing improved road access to developed recreation facilities • Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety • Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but outside of developed sites, contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are prevalent • Providing indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety 	<p>Action RC-C1.4.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action RC-D1.4.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized as culturally modified pastoral environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing improved road access to developed recreation facilities • Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety • Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but outside of developed sites where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are prevalent • Providing indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and to enhance visitor safety.
<p>Action RC-B1.4.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural recreation settings as in Alternative A (including the additional lands around Gold Hill).</p>		
<p>Action RC-A1.4.2 – Maintain the Gamlin Lake Recreation Site in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for its intended use) at a moderate maintenance intensity level.</p>	<p>Action RC-C1.4.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action RC-D1.4.2 – Maintain the Gamlin Lake Recreation Site in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for its intended use) at a moderate maintenance intensity level. Additional facilities added later would be maintained at the same level.</p>
<p>Action RC-A1.4.3 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a</p>	<p>Action RC-A1.4.3 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action RC-D1.4.3 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a</p>

Recreation (RC)

demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-A1.4.4 – Limit resource management and human actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, timber, and wildlife resource values that contribute to the area's unique setting by:

- Applying VRM Class III management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads
- Closing the day-use area to camping (overnight occupancy)
- Closing the area to grazing and equestrian uses
- Managing the timber resource under custodial guidelines
- Designing roads and trails to minimize soil erosion

Action RC-B1.4.4 – Limit resource management and human actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, timber, and wildlife resource values that contribute to the area's unique setting by:

- Applying VRM Class III management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads
- Closing the day-use area to camping (overnight occupancy)
- Closing the area to grazing
- Closing certain trails to equestrian use and leaving others open to such use
- Managing the timber resource under custodial guidelines
- Designing roads and trails to minimize soil erosion
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-A1.4.5 – Continue implementation actions contained in the Management Plan for the Gamlin Lake Special Management Area BLM (1995). These include:

- Selective tree removal along trails to open the canopy to allow additional

demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-D1.4.4 – Limit resource management and human actions to protect developed recreation sites and to protect and enhance water, riparian, timber, and wildlife resource values that contribute to the area's unique setting by:

- Applying VRM Class III management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads
- Closing the day-use area to camping (overnight occupancy)
- Closing the area to grazing but leaving specified trails open to equestrian uses
- Managing the timber resource under custodial guidelines
- Designing roads and trails to minimize soil erosion and impacts to special status plants and rare plant communities.
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-C1.4.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Action RC-D1.4.5 – Revise the existing Gamlin Lake activity plan to include the added lands around Gold Hill, but continue to implement actions already approved by the 1995 plan as in Alternative A and as modified by the above actions.

Recreation (RC)

- snow accumulations and to improve the trails for cross-country skiing
- Acquisition of additional lands on the north end of the lake and construction of parking and a small boat launching facility
- Construction of wildlife viewing platforms and boardwalk adjacent to the wetlands

Objective RC-A1.5 – Extensive Recreation Management Area: Where outdoor recreation activities occur within this area, provide needed custodial management to fulfill basic land stewardship responsibilities of the agency.

Action RC-A1.5.1 – Maintain the following recreation facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for their intended use level and purpose) at the indicated maintenance level (ML) where:

- ML 1 Low maintenance intensity
- ML 2 moderate maintenance intensity
- ML 3 high maintenance intensity

Facility	ML
Crater Lake Saddle	1
Crater Peak	1
Huckleberry Campground	2
Orphan Point Saddle	1
Sheep Springs	1

Objective RC-B1.5 – Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA (backcountry motorized zone): Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized primitive road and trail-related activities for adventure, exploration, challenge or risk, outdoor sport, and social group or family affiliation in mid-country and backcountry settings.

Action RC-B1.5.1 – Maintain the existing roaded-natural setting (which is characterized by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) and semiprimitive motorized setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:

- Providing improved road access to trailheads and primitive road and trail recreation routes through the area
- Providing recreation facilities for resource protection and visitor health and safety
- Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant
- Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent

Objective RC-C1.5 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-C1.5.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Objective RC-D1.5 – Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA (backcountry motorized zone): Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized primitive road and trail-related activities for adventure, exploration, challenge or risk, outdoor sport, and social group or family affiliation in mid-country and backcountry settings.

Action RC-D1.5.1 – Maintain the existing roaded-natural setting (which is characterized by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) and semiprimitive motorized setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:

- Providing improved road access to trailheads and primitive road and trail recreation routes through the area
- Providing recreation facilities for resource protection, and visitor health and safety
- Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant
- Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent

Recreation (RC)

Tingley Springs	1	mostly at trailhead access points. Conduct patrols to monitor use and resource conditions	
<p>Action RC-A1.5.2 – Operate developed sites as fee areas where they meet federal fee collection criteria. This includes Huckleberry Campground.</p>		<p>Action RC-B1.5.2 – Maintain the recreation sites at Sheep Springs and Tingley Springs in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at a moderate maintenance intensity level. Make facility improvements as needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life, safety, and health • Accessibility compliance • Component renewal • Deferred maintenance • Resource protection 	<p>Action RC-A1.5.3 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.</p>
		<p>Action RC-B1.5.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action RC-A1.5.4 – Continue to authorize current special recreation permits for commercial outfitting and guiding activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One permit in the Rochat Divide area for winter backcountry snowcat skiing. • One permit in the Widow Mountain area for big game hunting (rifle and archer) and summer trail rides. • One authorization via joint Forest Service use permit in the Blue Lake area for summer trail rides.
<p>Action RC-D1.5.2 – Maintain the recreation sites at Sheep Springs and Tingley Springs in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at a moderate maintenance intensity level. Make facility improvements as needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life, safety, and health • Accessibility compliance • Component renewal • Deferred maintenance • Resource protection 		<p>Action RC-B1.5.3 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action RC-D1.5.3 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.</p>
		<p>Action RC-C1.5.4 – Continue to authorize only the one current special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Issue no new permits.</p>	<p>Action RC-D1.5.4 – Continue to authorize the one current special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Do not consider any additional proposed commercial uses that would duplicate services or overlap with the existing permit.</p>

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-A1.5.5 – Regulate recreation activities in accordance with standard rules of use and adopted travel restrictions. Take administrative and monitoring actions where needed but prioritize developed sites and special management areas for onsite patrols.

End of actions for recreation management under Alternative A.

Action RC-B1.5.5 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values that contribute to the area's aesthetic setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II and III management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes
- Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-C1.5.5 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-D1.5.5 – Provide controls (including motorized vehicle restrictions when necessary) and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values that contribute to the area's aesthetic setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II and III management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes
- Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-B1.5.6 – Conduct activity-level planning to design an interconnected recreation road and trail network. Identify specific easement acquisition needs.

Action RC-C1.5.6 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-D1.5.6 – Conduct activity-level planning to design an interconnected recreation road and trail network. Identify specific easement acquisition needs and acquire on a willing-seller basis. Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help plan and maintain the travel system through partnerships, volunteer agreements, adoption programs, or other similar cooperative efforts.

Action RC-B1.5.7 – Keep the Middle Fork Pine Creek Road unmaintained and manage it as a motorized trail for "rock crawling" (extreme 4WD) activities.

Action RC-C1.5.7 – Do not designate the Middle Fork Pine Creek Road as a motorized travel route.

Action RC-D1.5.7 – Manage the Middle Fork Pine Creek Road as a motorized trail for "rock crawling" (extreme 4WD) activities. Perform only limited maintenance actions, and establish restrictions when necessary for minimizing unacceptable resource damages.

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-B1.5.8 – Acquire easements needed to provide a continuous trail route along the Coeur d'Alene St. Joe Divide from the Rochat Divide Road to the National Forest boundary. Manage it as a motorized route except for the portion within the Crystal Lake WSA.	Action RC-C1.5.8 – Same as Alternative B.	Action RC-D1.5.8 – Acquire easements needed to provide a continuous trail route along the Coeur d'Alene St. Joe Divide from the Rochat Divide Road to the National Forest boundary. Manage it as a motorized route except for the portion within the Crystal Lake WSA. Repair washouts on the Calusa Creek road, and maintain it as a connecting ATV trail to the Coeur d'Alene St. Joe Divide Trail.
<p>• Allow motorized use of the trail within the WSA portion if the WSA is released for multiple uses by Congress.</p>	<p>• Allow motorized use of the trail within the WSA portion if the WSA is released for multiple uses by Congress.</p>	<p>Allow motorized use of the trail within the WSA portion, if the WSA is released for multiple uses by Congress.</p>
Objective RC-B1.6 – Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA (backcountry nonmotorized zone): Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in nonmotorized trail-related activities for adventure, challenge or risk, solitude, outdoor sport, and social group or family affiliation within a backcountry setting.	Objective RC-C1.6 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective RC-D1.6 – Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA (backcountry nonmotorized zone): Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in nonmotorized trail-related activities for adventure, challenge or risk, solitude, outdoor sport, and social group or family affiliation within a backcountry setting.
<p>Action RC-B1.6.1 – Maintain the existing semiprimitive recreation setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing primitive road access to trailhead facilities and trail access through the area • Providing recreation facilities primarily for resource protection • Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant • Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent mostly at trailhead access points. Conduct patrols to monitor use and resource conditions 	<p>Actions RC-C1.6.1 – Maintain the existing semiprimitive recreation setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing primitive road access to trailhead facilities and trail access through the area • Providing recreation facilities primarily for resource protection • Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant • Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent mostly at trailhead access points. Conduct patrols to monitor use and resource conditions 	<p>Action RC-D1.6.1 – Maintain the existing semiprimitive recreation setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing primitive road access to trailhead facilities and trail access through the area • Providing recreation facilities primarily for resource protection • Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant • Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent mostly at trailhead access points. Conduct patrols to monitor use and resource conditions

Recreation (RC)

- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-B1.6.2 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-B1.6.3 – Continue to authorize the one current special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Do not consider any additional proposed commercial uses for hunting or that would overlap with the existing permit duplicating services. Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-B1.6.4 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values that contribute to the area's aesthetic setting by:

- Applying VRM Class I or II management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes
- Closing the Crystal Lake Trail from Sheep Springs to equestrian and mechanized uses
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to

Action RC-C1.6.2 – Same as in Alternative B. Continued on page 2-102

Action RC-D1.6.2 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-D1.6.3 – Continue to authorize the one current special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Do not consider any additional proposed commercial uses for hunting or that would overlap with the existing permit duplicating services.

Action RC-D1.6.4 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values that contribute to the area's aesthetic setting by:

- Applying VRM Class I or II management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes
- Closing the Crystal Lake Trail from Sheep Springs to equestrian and mechanized uses
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to

Recreation (RC)

protect developed recreation sites	protect developed recreation sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA
<p>Objective RC-B1.7 – Silver Valley SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for local residents and visiting tourists to engage in motorized road and trail-related activities for adventure, exploration, and social group or family affiliation within front and mid-country forested mountain settings.</p> <p>Action RC-B1.7.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing paved and improved road access to developed sites and areas Providing accessible recreation facilities including trails for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety. Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate to high levels, where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are either not provided or are minimal Accommodating visitor use outside of developed areas at moderate levels where contact between visitors may be less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment may either be present or prevalent Provide indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address 	<p>Objective RC-C1.7 – Widow (Grandmother) Mountain SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized and nonmotorized outdoor activities in a backcountry setting for adventure, solitude, scenic and cultural appreciation, and using and practicing outdoor skills.</p> <p>Action RC-C1.7.1 – Maintain the existing semiprimitive motorized setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing primitive road access to trailhead facilities and trail access through the area Providing minimal recreation facilities for resource protection and visitor health and safety Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent mostly at trailhead access points. Conduct patrols to monitor use and resource conditions
<p>Objective RC-D1.7 – Silver Valley SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for local residents and visiting tourists to engage in motorized road and trail-related activities for adventure, exploration, and social group or family affiliation within front and mid-country forested mountain settings.</p> <p>Action RC-D1.7.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing paved and improved road access to developed sites and areas Providing accessible recreation facilities, including trails for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are either not provided or are minimal Accommodating visitor use outside of developed areas at moderate levels where contact between visitors may be less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment may either be present or prevalent Providing indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address 	<p>Action RC-D1.7.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified environment or by a generally natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing paved and improved road access to developed sites and areas Providing accessible recreation facilities, including trails for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety Accommodating visitor use in developed areas at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent or common and opportunities for solitude are either not provided or are minimal Accommodating visitor use outside of developed areas at moderate levels where contact between visitors may be less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment may either be present or prevalent Providing indirect management controls coupled with a regular and periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address

Recreation (RC)

user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety.

Action RC-B1.7.2 – Limit resource management actions to protect the recreation setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II, III, and IV management constraints (as mapped)
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated roads and trails
- Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-C1.7.2 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values which contribute to the areas aesthetic setting by:

- Applying VRM Class I or II management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes
- Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety.

Action RC-D 1.7.2 – Limit resource management actions to protect the recreation setting by:

- Applying VRM Class II, III, and IV management constraints (as mapped)
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated roads and trails
- Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-B1.7.3 – Conduct activity-level travel management planning to design an interconnected recreation road and trail network. Work in conjunction with the Forest Service and other partners to make logical connections and to:

- Make consistent travel designations
- Identify easement and acquisition needs
- Produce consistent brochures, maps, and other information
- Provide consistent signing

Action RC-C1.7.3 – Coordinate management activities with the Forest Service.

Action RC-D1.7.3 – Conduct activity-level travel management planning to design an interconnected recreation road and trail network. Work in conjunction with the Forest Service and other partners to make logical connections and to:

- Make consistent travel designations
- Identify easement and acquisition needs
- Produce consistent brochures, maps, and other information
- Provide consistent signing

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-B1.7.4 – Continue to cooperate with the Forest Service on the Pulaski Tunnel trail project.

Action RC-C1.7.4 – Maintain the three developed recreation sites in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at moderate maintenance intensity level. Make facility improvements as needed for:

- Accessibility compliance needs
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Resource Protection

Action RC-B1.7.5 – Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help plan and maintain the travel system through partnerships, volunteer agreements, adoption programs, or other similar cooperative efforts.

Action RC-C1.7.5 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-B1.7.6 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-C1.7.6 – Continue to authorize the one current special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Do not consider any additional proposed commercial uses that would overlap with the existing permit, duplicating services. Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Objective RC-B1.8 – Extensive Recreation Management Area: Where outdoor recreation activities occur within this area, provide needed custodial management to fulfill basic land stewardship responsibilities of the agency.

Objective RC-C1.8 – Same as Alternative B.

Action RC-B1.8.1 – Regulate recreation activities in accordance with standard rules of use and adopted travel restrictions. Take administrative and monitoring actions where needed.

Action RC-C1.8.1 – Maintain Huckleberry Campground in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for its intended use level and purpose) at a high maintenance intensity level. Make facility improvements as needed for:

- Accessibility compliance needs

Action RC-D1.7.4 – Continue to cooperate with the Forest Service on the Pulaski Tunnel trail project.

Action RC-D1.7.5 – Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help plan and maintain the travel system through partnerships, volunteer agreements, adoption programs, or other similar cooperative efforts.

Action RC-D1.7.6 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Objective RC-D1.8 – Widow (Grandmother) Mountain SRMA: Manage this area to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized and nonmotorized outdoor activities in a backcountry setting for adventure, solitude, scenic and cultural appreciation, and using and practicing outdoor skills.

Action RC-D1.8.1 – Maintain the existing semiprimitive motorized setting (which is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment altered with primitive roads and trails) by:

- Providing primitive road access to trailhead facilities and trail access

Recreation (RC)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component renewal• Deferred maintenance• Resource Protection	through the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing recreation facilities for resource protection and visitor health and safety.• Accommodating visitor use at access points at low to moderate levels where contact between visitors is anticipated and opportunities for solitude are minimal, but away from the access points where contacts are less frequent and opportunities to interact with the natural environment are predominant• Providing primarily indirect management controls apparent mostly at trailhead access points. Conduct patrols to monitor use and resource conditions
<p>Action RC-B1.8.2 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.</p> <p>Continued on page 2-106</p>	<p>Action RC-C1.8.2 – Operate Huckleberry Campground as a federal fee collection area. Consider commercial special use permit applications for vending services, such as the sale of firewood, on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Continued on page 2-106</p>
<p>Action RC-D1.8.2 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values that contribute to the area's aesthetic setting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying VRM Class I or II management constraints• Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes• Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles• Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites• Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA	

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-C1.8.3 – Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-C1.8.4 – Continue to authorize current special recreation permits for commercial outfitting and guiding activities and consider new nonoverlapping proposals on a case-by-case basis. This includes one authorization via joint Forest Service use permit in the Blue Lake area for summer trail rides. Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-D1.8.3 – Coordinate management activities with the Forest Service.

Action RC-D1.8.4 – Maintain Crater Lake Saddle, Orphan Point Saddle, and Crater Peak recreation sites in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for the intended use level and purpose) at moderate maintenance intensity level. Make facility improvements as needed for:

- Accessibility compliance needs
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Resource Protection

Action RC-C1.8.5 – Continue the R&PP lease to Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation at Old Mission State Park.

Action RC-D1.8.5 – Continue to authorize the one current special recreation permit for commercial outfitting and guiding activities. Do not consider any additional proposed commercial uses that would overlap with the existing permit, duplicating services. Authorize additional special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-C1.8.5 – Regulate recreation activities in accordance with standard rules of use and adopted travel restrictions. Take administrative and monitoring actions where needed, but prioritize developed sites and special management areas for onsite patrols.

Action RC-C1.8.6 – Specify no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites.

Objective RC-B1.9 – Huckleberry Campground SRMA: Manage this developed riverside tract

End of actions for recreation management under Alternative C.

Objective RC-D1.9 – Same as Alternative B.

Recreation (RC)

for overnight RV camping, providing visitors the opportunity for rest, relaxation, and social group or family affiliation. Also, manage this site to serve as a staging area from which visitors can pursue offsite day-use adventures.

Action RC-B1.9.1 – Maintain a rural setting (which is characterized by a culturally modified natural environment where sights and sounds of man are readily evident) by:

- Providing improved road access, including a developed campground road system
- Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety
- Accommodating visitor use at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent and opportunities for solitude are not provided
- Providing a regular periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety

Action RC-B1.9.2 – Maintain Huckleberry Campground in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for its intended use) at a high maintenance intensity level.

Action RC-B1.9.3 – Operate Huckleberry Campground as a federal fee collection area, providing reservation services in the future when onsite communications become more reliable.

Action RC-B1.9.4 – Consider commercial special use permit applications for vending services, such as the sale of firewood, on a case-by-case basis.

Action RC-D1.9.1 – Maintain the existing rural and roaded-natural settings (which are characterized by a culturally modified pastoral environment or by a generally naturally appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of humans) by:

- Providing improved road access including a developed campground road system
- Providing accessible recreation facilities for user convenience, resource protection, and visitor health and safety
- Accommodating visitor use at moderate to high levels where contact between visitors is frequent and opportunities for solitude are not provided
- Providing a regular periodic onsite management presence to monitor use, address user and resource conflicts, and enhance visitor safety

Action RC-D1.9.2 – Maintain Huckleberry Campground in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for its intended use) at a high maintenance intensity level.

Action RC-D1.9.3 – Operate Huckleberry Campground as a federal fee collection area providing reservation services in the future when onsite communications become more reliable.

Action RC-D1.9.4 – Consider commercial special use permit applications for vending services, such as the sale of firewood, on a case-by-case basis.

Recreation (RC)

Action RC-C1.9.5 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect visitors and developed recreation facilities by:

- Applying VRM Class II management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads
- Enforcing the established 14-day campground stay limit and other established rules of use for developed recreation sites
- Using volunteer campground hosts to provide visitor services.
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-B1.9.6 – Make facility improvements for:

- Accessibility compliance needs
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Modernization
- Increased camping capacity

Action RC-D1.9.5 – Provide controls and limit management actions to protect visitors and developed recreation facilities by:

- Applying VRM Class II management constraints
- Limiting motorized vehicles to designated developed roads
- Enforcing the established 14-day campground stay limit and other established rules of use for developed recreation sites
- Using volunteer campground hosts to provide visitor services
- Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO-7 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites
- Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (CSU-3 see Appendix H) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts to use of this SRMA

Action RC-D1.9.6 – Make facility improvements for:

- Accessibility compliance needs
- Component renewal
- Deferred maintenance
- Modernization
- Increased camping capacity

Objective RC-D1.10 – Extensive Recreation Management Area: Where outdoor recreation activities occur within this area, provide needed custodial management to fulfill basic land stewardship responsibilities of the agency.

Action RC-D1.10.1 – Regulate recreation activities in accordance with standard rules of

Recreation (RC)

use and adopted travel restrictions. Take administrative and monitoring actions where needed.

Action RC-D1.10.2 – Consider special recreation permit authorizations for commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a case-by-case basis. Authorize special uses when there is a demonstrated public need or benefit and the uses are consistent and compatible with the area's management objective and managed condition.

Action RC-D1.10.3 – Continue the R&PP lease to Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation at Old Mission State Park.

RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE)

Goal RE-1. – Provide opportunities for the development of renewable energy resources compatible with other resource goals.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective RE-A1.1 – Provide opportunities for development of renewable energy resources.</p> <p>Action RE-A1.1.1 – Authorize renewable energy projects in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and policies.</p>	<p>Objective RE-B1.1 – Provide opportunities for production of energy through use of biomass.</p> <p>Action RE-B1.1.1 – See FP-B1.1.</p>	<p>Objective RE-C1.1 – Provide opportunities for production of energy through use of biomass.</p> <p>Action RE-C1.1.1 – See FP-C1.1.</p>	<p>Objective RE-D1.1 – Provide opportunities for production of energy through use of biomass.</p> <p>Action RE-D1.1.1 – Same as Action FP-C1.1.</p>
	<p>Objective RE-B1.2 – Provide opportunities for development of geothermal energy resources.</p> <p>Action RE-B1.2.1 – See Fluid Minerals Section, Actions MN-B1.1.1 – MN-B1.1.6.</p> <p>Objective RE-B1.3 – Provide opportunities for development of wind energy resources.</p> <p>Action RE-B1.3.1 – Issue right-of-way grants for wind energy development projects consistent with Lands and Realty Section, Objective LR-B1.1 and Actions LR-B1.1.1 – LR-B1.1.5.</p>	<p>Objective RE-C1.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action RE-C1.2.1 – See Fluid Minerals Section, Actions MN-C1.1.1 – MN-C1.1.6.</p> <p>Objective RE-C1.3 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action RE-C1.3.1 – Issue right-of-way grants for wind energy development projects consistent with Lands and Realty Section, Objective LR-C1.1 and Actions LR-C1.1.1 – LR-C1.1.5.</p>	<p>Objective RE-D1.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action RE-C1.2.1 – Same as Fluid Minerals, Actions MN-D1.1.1 – MN-D1.1.6.</p> <p>Objective RE-D1.3: Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action RE-D1.3.1 – Issue right-of-way grants for wind energy development projects consistent with Lands and Realty Section, Objective LR-D1.1 and Actions LR-D1.1.1 – LR-D1.1.5.</p>

Transportation and Travel Management (TM)

Goal TM-1 – Provide adequate administrative access for resource management needs and appropriate public access to recreation opportunities on BLM-managed or partnered lands and waters.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective TM-A1.1 – Consistent with resource management actions described throughout Alternative A, make area travel management designations to classify BLM lands as open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use, define spatial, temporal, or functional travel restrictions within limited areas, and then identify needed implementation actions.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.1 – Allow unconfined motorized vehicle use except where restrictions are required to address specific resource management problems or conflicts as mapped (see Maps 25, 26, 27, and 28) and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Designation: 63,041 acres • Limited Designation: 33,567 acres • Closed Designation: 162 acres <p>Action TM-A1.1.2 – Restrict motorized vehicle travel within limited areas to designated routes as mapped and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.2 miles of road available to all classes of vehicles (roads in open areas are not designated or included in this calculation) • 0 miles of road available with restrictions by season of use or by class of vehicle • 14 miles of trail available but restricted by class of vehicle <p>Action TM-A1.1.3 – Cross-country travel by snowmobiles would be allowed in areas designated as open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66,949 acres available for cross-country use by snowmobiles (not all 	<p>Objective TM-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.1 – Allow motorized vehicle use as mapped (see Maps 29, 30, 31, and 32) and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Designation: 0 acres • Limited Designation: 96,608 acres • Closed Designation: 162 acres <p>Action TM-B1.1.2 – Except for snowmobile use, restrict motorized vehicle travel within limited areas to designated routes as mapped and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 169 miles of road available to all classes of vehicles • 62 miles of road available with restrictions by season of use or by class of vehicle • 51 miles of trail available but restricted by class of vehicle <p>Action TM-B1.1.3 – Cross-country travel by snowmobile would be allowed on frozen and snowcovered ground except closed areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Rochat Divide roadless area, Coeur d'Alene Lake Special</p>	<p>Objective TM-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Action TM-C1.1.1 – Restrict motorized vehicle use as mapped (see maps 33, 34, 35, and 36) and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Designation: 0 acres • Limited Designation: 96,549 acres • Closed Designation: 311 acres <p>Action TM-C1.1.2 – Restrict all motorized vehicle travel within limited areas to designated routes as mapped and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 miles of road available to all classes of vehicles • 65 miles of road available with restrictions by season of use or by class of vehicle • 4 miles of trail available but restricted by class of vehicle <p>Action TM-C1.1.3 – No cross-country snowmobile use would be allowed.</p>	<p>Objective TM-D1.1 – Consistent with resource management actions described throughout Alternative D, make area travel management designations to classify BLM lands as open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use, define spatial, temporal, or functional travel restrictions within limited areas, and then identify needed implementation actions.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.1 – Allow motorized vehicle use as mapped (see Maps 37, 38, 39, and 40) and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Designation: 0 acres • Limited Designation: 96,139 acres • Closed Designation: 631 acres <p>Action TM-D1.1.2 – Except for snowmobile use, restrict motorized vehicle travel within limited areas to designated routes as mapped and quantified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 107 miles of road available to all classes of vehicles • 18 miles of road available with restrictions by season of use or by class of vehicle • 50 miles of trail available but restricted by class of vehicle <p>Action TM-D1.1.3 – Cross-country travel by snowmobile would be allowed on frozen and snowcovered ground except closed areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Rochat Divide roadless area, Wolverine den sites, Coeur</p>

Transportation and Travel Management (TM)

<p>acres are physically accessible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29,821 acres closed to cross-country snowmobile use 	<p>Recreation Management Area, Gamlin Lake Special Recreation Management Area, and developed recreation or administrative sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64,157 acres available for use by snowmobiles during the winter season (not all acres are physically accessible) • 32,613 acres closed to cross-country snowmobile use 	<p>d'Alene Lake Special Recreation Management Area, Gamlin Lake Special Recreation Management Area, and developed recreation or administrative sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63,373 acres available for use by snowmobiles during the winter season (not all acres are physically accessible) • 33,397 acres closed to cross-country snowmobile use
<p>Action TM-A1.1.4 – Exempt uses as defined in the OHV regulations would be allowed without explicit prior permission.</p>	<p>Action TM-B1.1.4 – In closed or limited areas, the following vehicle uses would be allowed without prior explicit written permission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle being used for emergency purposes • Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies • Official use as defined in the OHV regulations 	<p>Action TM-D1.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action TM-A1.1.5 – There would be no travel restrictions on mechanized nonmotorized forms of travel.</p>	<p>Action TM-B1.1.5 – Additional exempt uses as defined in the OHV regulations may be allowed on a case-by-case basis with prior written permission from the authorized officer.</p>	<p>Action TM-D1.1.5 – Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action TM-A1.1.6 – Equestrian use is not allowed at the following developed recreation sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles) • Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles) • Blackwell Island Boardwalk (.5 	<p>Action TM-B1.1.6 – Apply cross-country travel restrictions to mechanized nonmotorized forms of travel the same as snowmobiles.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.7 – Neither equestrian nor mountain biking is allowed at the following developed recreation sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles) • Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles) • Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.25 	<p>Action TM-D1.1.6 – Apply cross-country travel restrictions to mechanized nonmotorized forms of travel the same as snowmobiles.</p> <p>Action TM-D.1.7 – The following restrictions would apply to nonmotorized use in the specified developed recreation sites:</p> <p>Closed to equestrian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles) • Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles)

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miles)	miles)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gamlin Lake Trail (4.3 miles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.5 miles) Gamlin Lake Trail (4.3 miles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.5 miles) 	
<p>Action TM-A1.1.7 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative A. Changes may add or eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.8 – Communicate travel and transportation information to public land visitors through the use of signs, maps, and other means.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.9 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-A1.1.7.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.10 – Areas, roads, or trails may be temporarily closed during times of severely high fire danger, as described in the Wildland Fire Management Section.</p> <p>Objective TM-A1.2 – Consistent with current management prescriptions described</p>	<p>Closed to mountain bikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles) Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles) Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.25 miles) <p>Closed to mountain bikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles) Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles) Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.25 miles) 	<p>Closed to mountain bikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles) Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles) Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.25 miles) 	
<p>Action TM-B1.1.7 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative B. Changes may add or eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.8 – Communicate travel and transportation information to public land visitors through the use of signs, maps, and other means.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.9 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-B1.1.7.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.10 – Areas, roads, or trails may be temporarily closed during times of severely high fire danger, as described in the Wildland Fire Management Section.</p> <p>Objective TM-B1.2 – Consistent with current management prescriptions described</p>	<p>Action TM-C1.1.8 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative C. Changes may eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-C1.1.9 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action TM-C1.1.10 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-C1.1.7.</p> <p>Action TM-C1.1.11 – Same as TM-A1.1.10.</p>	<p>Action TM-D1.1.8 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative D. Changes may add or eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.9 – Work collaboratively with the Forest Service and other land owners to jointly and uniformly communicate travel and transportation closure and restriction requirements to public land visitors through publication of common maps, the use of consistent signs, and other coordinated means.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.10 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-D1.1.8.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.11 – Same as TM-A1.1.10.</p>	
<p>Action TM-A1.1.7 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative A. Changes may add or eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.8 – Communicate travel and transportation information to public land visitors through the use of signs, maps, and other means.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.9 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-A1.1.7.</p> <p>Action TM-A1.1.10 – Areas, roads, or trails may be temporarily closed during times of severely high fire danger, as described in the Wildland Fire Management Section.</p> <p>Objective TM-A1.2 – Consistent with current management prescriptions described</p>	<p>Action TM-B1.1.8 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative B. Changes may eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.9 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.10 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-B1.1.7.</p> <p>Action TM-B1.1.11 – Same as TM-A1.1.10.</p>	<p>Action TM-D1.1.8 – Within areas designated as limited, adjustments to the transportation network restrictions may be considered annually provided adopted changes are consistent with the resource management prescriptions of Alternative D. Changes may add or eliminate available routes, change allowed seasons of use, or modify allowed types of use.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.9 – Work collaboratively with the Forest Service and other land owners to jointly and uniformly communicate travel and transportation closure and restriction requirements to public land visitors through publication of common maps, the use of consistent signs, and other coordinated means.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.10 – If or when Wilderness Study Areas are released by Congress from further study, the existing limited travel designations will continue to apply. However, implementation-level decisions on route restrictions may be made in accordance with Action TM-D1.1.8.</p> <p>Action TM-D1.1.11 – Same as TM-A1.1.10.</p>	<p>Objective TM-D1.2 – Consistent with resource management prescriptions described throughout</p>

Transportation and Travel Management (TM)

throughout Alternative A, identify and assign maintenance classifications to transportation facilities needed or administered by BLM.	Alternative B, identify and assign management and maintenance classifications to transportation facilities needed or administered by BLM.	throughout Alternative C, which minimizes road access in favor of primitive road or trail access, identify and assign management and maintenance classifications to transportation facilities needed or administered by BLM.	Alternative D, identify and assign management and maintenance classifications to transportation facilities needed or administered by BLM.
<p>Action TM-A1.2.1 – Recognizing that public road needs are provided by other entities, operate all BLM roads as administrative routes. Public use may be allowed in accordance with established restrictions.</p>	<p>Action TM-B1.2.1 – Recognize the critical importance of certain local transportation routes to BLM land and resource management activities by recommending (with concurrence of the local jurisdiction) the following select routes be designated as Federal Land Management Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latour Creek Road (Eastside Highway District, Kootenai County) • Killarney Lake Road (Eastside Highway District, Kootenai County) • Pine Creek Road (Shoshone County) • East Fork Pine Creek Road (Shoshone County) • Yellowstone Trail Road (Eastside Highway District, Kootenai County) 	<p>Action TM-C1.2.1 – Explicitly designate all BLM roads as administrative routes but allow public use in accordance with established restrictions.</p>	<p>Action TM-D1.2.1 – Recognize the critical importance of certain local transportation routes to BLM land and resource management activities by recommending (with concurrence of the local jurisdiction) the following select routes be designated as Federal Land Management Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latour Creek Road (Eastside Highway District, Kootenai County) • Killarney Lake Road (Eastside Highway District, Kootenai County) • Pine Creek Road (Shoshone County) • East Fork Pine Creek Road (Shoshone County) • Yellowstone Trail Road including Landing Road (Eastside Highway District, Kootenai County)
<p>Action TM-A1.2.2 – Maintain system roads and trails in good condition (defined as safe and functional for their intended levels and types of use).</p>	<p>Action TM-B1.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TM-C1.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TM-D1.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>
	<p>Action TM-B1.2.3 – Recognize the critical importance of certain BLM roads and designate the following select routes as "public roads," making them part of the Public Road Transportation System and eligible for Public Land Highway funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochat Divide Road • Phillips Draw Road 		<p>Action TM-D1.2.3 – Recognize the critical importance of the Rochat Road by nominating it for designation as a "public road," making it part of the Public Road Transportation System and eligible for Public Land Highway funds.</p>

Transportation and Travel Management (TM)

Action TM-B1.2.4 – Except for the routes identified in Action TM-B1.2.3 above, explicitly designate BLM roads as administrative routes. Allow public use of both public and administrative routes in accordance with established restrictions.

Action TM-B1.2.4 – Explicitly designate BLM roads as administrative routes except roads subsequently designated public in accordance with Action TM-D1.2.3, above. Allow public use of both public and administrative routes in accordance with established restrictions.

Lands and Realty (LR)

Goal LR-1 – Meet public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits when such needs are consistent with other resource values.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective LR-A1.1 – Issue use authorizations consistent with other resource values.	Objective LR-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective LR-C1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Objective LR-D1.1 – Issue use authorizations consistent with other resource values.
Action LR-A1.1.1 – Require holders of such authorizations to follow standard vegetative, soil disturbance, and wildlife mitigations.	Action LR-B1.1.1 – Designate right-of-way corridors across the planning area as delineated in the 1992 Western Regional Corridor Study (updated in 2003). Nominal corridor width would be 1,320 feet on each side of the centerline of existing facilities.	Action LR-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action LR-D1.1.1 – Designate right-of-way corridors across the planning area as delineated in the 1992 Western Regional Corridor Study (updated in 2003), except as noted below. Nominal corridor width would be 1,320 feet on each side of the centerline of existing facilities. If a designated or existing corridor passes through a SRMA or ACEC, additional uses within the corridor will be allowed only to the extent that the additional use does not conflict with the purpose for SRMA or ACEC designation.
	Action LR-B1.1.2 – Rights-of-way authorizations will require holders to follow best management practices (see Appendix A) when appropriate to protect vegetation and wildlife habitat and to minimize soil disturbance.	Action LR-C1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action LR-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action LR-B1.1.3 – To the extent possible, locate such authorized uses and applications for such uses where impacts to other resources would be the least disturbing.	Action LR-C1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action LR-D1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.
No exclusion areas.	Action LR-B1.1.4 – Designate 21,636 acres as exclusion areas for ROWs, leases, permits, etc. In these areas, issuance of use	Action LR-C1.1.4 – Designate 21,819 acres as exclusion areas for ROWs, leases, permits, etc. In these areas, issuance of use	Action LR-D1.1.4 – Designate 22,069 acres as exclusion areas for ROWs, leases, permits, etc. In these areas, issuance of use

Lands and Realty (LR)

Lands and Realty (LR)	authorizations would not be allowed:		authorizations would not be allowed:		authorizations would not be allowed:	
	• WSAs		• WSAs		• WSAs	
No avoidance areas.	<p>Action LR-B1.1.5 – Designate 23,586 acres as avoidance areas for the issuance of use authorizations. In these areas, efforts will be made to reroute a proposal. They may be allowed if no reasonable alternative is found; however, special mitigations may be required to protect resource values. They may also be allowed if they support or promote other management objectives for the area. The areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • VRM Class II or A class scenery • RCAs • Lake Coeur d'Alene SRMA • Lower Coeur d'Alene River SRMA • Gamlin Lake SRMA • Huckleberry SRMA 	<p>Action LR-B1.1.5 – Designate 23,586 acres as avoidance areas for the issuance of use authorizations. In these areas, efforts will be made to reroute a proposal. They may be allowed if no reasonable alternative is found; however, special mitigations may be required to protect resource values. They may also be allowed if they support or promote other management objectives for the area. The areas are:</p>	<p>Action LR-C1.1.5 – Designate 46,273 acres as avoidance areas for the issuance of use authorizations. In these areas, efforts will be made to reroute a proposal. They may be allowed if no reasonable alternative is found; however, special mitigations may be required to protect resource values. They may also be allowed if they support or promote other management objectives for the area. The areas are:</p>	<p>Action LR-D1.1.5 – Designate 11,274 acres as avoidance areas for the issuance of use authorizations. In these areas, efforts will be made to reroute a proposal. They may be allowed if no reasonable alternative is found; however, special mitigations may be required to protect resource values. They may also be allowed if they support or promote other management objectives for the area. The areas are:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Windy Bay ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest RNA • Hideaways Islands RNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Windy Bay ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest RNA • Hideaways Islands RNA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution ACEC • Liberal King ACEC • Hecla-Star ACEC • Motherload ACEC • Nabob ACEC • Rex ACEC • Sidney ACEC • Wallace Landfill ACEC • Killarney Lake ACEC • Morton Slough ACEC • Rochat Divide ACEC • WSR Corridors (scenic or recreation designations) • Kootenai Riverfront ACEC • Little North Fork ACEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest ACEC • Gamlin Lake ACEC • Windy Bay ACEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Windy Bay ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest RNA • Hideaways Islands RNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Windy Bay ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest RNA • Hideaways Islands RNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Windy Bay ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest RNA • Hideaways Islands RNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAs • WSR Corridors (wild designations) • Windy Bay ACEC • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC • Farnham Forest RNA • Hideaways Islands RNA

Lands and Realty (LR)

- VRM Class II or A class scenery
- RCAs
- Lake Coeur d'Alene SRMA
- Killamey Lake SRMA
- Gamlin Lake SRMA

Goal LR-2 – Provide for public ownership of lands (or interest in lands) with high resource and/or public use values.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective LR-A2.1.1 – Adjust public land ownership to improve resource values and eliminate administrative inefficiency of managing scattered public lands containing less important public values.</p> <p>Action LR-2.1.1.1 – 71,840 acres of public land, currently within management areas, would be retained in public ownership (Map 41).</p>	<p>Action LR-B2.1.1.1 – Lands including, but not limited to, those that generally meet one or more of the criteria below will be retained or acquired. Those lands that do not meet these criteria will be available for adjustment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-value timberlands and growing sites • Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) • Wildlife habitat (hunnable, fishable, trappable, viewable) • Forage for livestock grazing • Mineral potential • Consolidation for management efficiency • Hazardous material sites (do not acquire and exchange or otherwise dispose of except with potentially responsible parties) • Municipal watersheds • Public or administrative access 	<p>Objective LR-C2.1.1 – Adjust and consolidate public land ownership (or interest in lands such as easements) to protect resources and promote low impact uses.</p> <p>Action LR-C2.1.1 – Lands including, but not limited to, those that generally meet one or more of the criteria below will be retained or acquired. Those lands that do not meet these criteria will be available for adjustment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSS plant and wildlife habitat • Traditional Cultural Uses • Significant archeological sites • Dispersed recreation use • Riparian and wetland habitat • Consolidation for management efficiency • Hazardous material sites (do not acquire and exchange or otherwise dispose of only with potentially responsible parties) • Municipal watersheds • Public or administrative access 	<p>Objective LR-D2.1.1 – Adjust and consolidate public land ownership (or interest in lands such as easements) to protect resources and promote uses.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.1.1.1 – Lands including, but not limited to, those that generally meet one or more of the criteria below will be retained or acquired. Those lands that do not meet these criteria will be available for adjustment. Utilize specific criteria contained in other sections to identify acquisitions where so delineated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-value timberlands and growing sites • Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) • Riparian and wetland habitat • Public or administrative access • Traditional Cultural Uses and/or significant archaeological and historic sites • Consolidation for management efficiency • Hazardous material sites (do not acquire and exchange or otherwise dispose of only with potentially responsible parties) • Municipal watersheds • Habitat for federally listed species

Lands and Realty (LR)

consistent with conservation measures in Appendix L

Action LR-A2.1.2 – 24,930 acres of public land, currently within adjustment areas, would be available for exchange for nonpublic lands to expand the public land base within the management areas. Acquired lands would be managed in accordance with the Emerald Empire MFP (Map 41).

Action LR-B2.1.2 – Implement a land tenure adjustment program with approximately 87,302 acres considered for retention and 9,468 acres considered for adjustment, based on the criteria under Action LR-B2.1.1, above. Exchange or disposal of lands with hazardous materials can be done only with potentially responsible parties (Map 42).

Action LR-B2.1.3 – Manage lands or interests in lands acquired in a manner consistent with adjacent or nearby public lands, or managed for the goals and objectives for which they were acquired.

Action LR-B2.1.4 – Work with willing partners to acquire land that is in the public interest.

Action LR-B2.1.5 – Consult with appropriate Indian tribes regarding land tenure adjustments.

Action LR-B2.1.6 – Retain necessary public access when lands are transferred out of federal ownership.

Action LR-B2.1.7 – Retain those public lands withdrawn from the public land laws, the mining laws, or the mineral leasing laws. At the termination of the withdrawal, use the criteria contained in Action LR-B2.1.1 to determine whether the lands formerly withdrawn should be retained or should be available for adjustment.

Action LR-B2.1.8 – Isolated parcels that meet the criteria contained in Action LR-B1.1.1, but are not in a management area, may be retained.

Action LR-B2.1.9 – Recognizing the scattered nature and odd configuration of some public lands in retention areas, allow the adjustment of such lands when it is determined that they meet at least one of the following criteria:

Action LR-C2.1.2 – Implement a land tenure adjustment program with approximately 72,687 acres considered for retention and 24,083 acres considered for adjustment, based on the criteria under Action LR-C2.1.1, above. Exchange or disposal of lands with hazardous materials can be done only with potentially responsible parties (Map 43).

Action LR-C2.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Action LR-C2.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Action LR-C2.1.5 – Same as Alternative B.

Action LR-C2.1.6 – Same as Alternative B.

Action LR-C2.1.7 – Same as Alternative B.

Action LR-C2.1.8 – Isolated parcels that meet the criteria contained in Action LR-C1.1.1, but are not in a management area, may be retained.

Action LR-C2.1.9 – Same as Alternative B, Action LR-B1.1.11.

Action LR-D2.1.2 – Implement a land tenure adjustment program with approximately 87,240 acres considered for retention and 9,530 acres considered for adjustment, based on the criteria under Action LR-D2.1.1, above. Exchange or disposal of lands with hazardous materials can be done only with potentially responsible parties (Map 44).

Action LR-D2.1.3 – Manage lands or interests in lands acquired in a manner consistent with adjacent or nearby public lands, or managed for the goals and objectives for which they were acquired.

Action LR-D2.1.4 – Work with willing partners to acquire land that is in the public interest.

Action LR-D2.1.5 – Consult with appropriate Indian tribes regarding land tenure adjustments.

Action LR-D2.1.6 – Retain necessary public access when lands are transferred out of Federal ownership.

Action LR-D2.1.7 – Retain those public lands withdrawn from the public land laws, the mining laws, or the mineral leasing laws. At the termination of the withdrawal, use the criteria contained in Action 1 to determine whether the lands formerly withdrawn should be retained or be available for adjustment.

Action LR-D2.1.8 – Isolated parcels that meet the criteria contained in Action LR-D1.1.1, but are not in a management area, may be retained.

Action LR-D2.1.9 – Recognizing the scattered nature and odd configuration of some public lands in retention areas, allow the adjustment of such lands when it is determined that they meet at least one of the following criteria:

Lands and Realty (LR)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally fragmented and/or isolated • Difficult and uneconomic to manage • Relatively inaccessible to the public • Does not contain high resource values 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally fragmented and/or isolated • Difficult and uneconomic to manage • Relatively inaccessible to the public • Does not contain high resource values 	
<p>Objective LR-B2.2 – Minimize restrictions from withdrawals on public use of resources. Public lands may be withdrawn from the public land laws, mining laws, and/or mineral leasing laws.</p> <p>Action LR-B2.2.1 – Recommend the continuation of all withdrawals, initiated by other agencies that are currently in effect, unless the initiating agency requests that the withdrawal be terminated.</p> <p>Action LR-B2.2.2 – Recommend modification or revocation of withdrawals that are no longer needed, in whole or part, for the purpose for which they were withdrawn.</p> <p>Action LR-B2.2.3 – Recommend new withdrawals on a case-by-case basis when such action is necessary to protect resource values.</p>	<p>Objective LR-C2.2 – Recommend or retain withdrawals to protect cultural and natural resources from impacts that would otherwise result from authorized uses.</p> <p>Action LR-C2.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action LR-C2.2.2 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action LR-C2.2.3 – Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Objective LR-D2.2 – Recommend new withdrawals, or retain existing ones, to protect cultural and natural resources from impacts that would otherwise result from authorized uses.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.2.1 – Recommend the continuation of all withdrawals, initiated by other agencies that are currently in effect, unless the initiating agency requests that the withdrawal be terminated.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.2.2 – Recommend modification or revocation of withdrawals that are no longer needed, in whole or part, for the purpose for which they were withdrawn.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.2.3 – Recommend new withdrawals on a case-by-case basis when such action is necessary to protect resource values.</p>	<p>Objective LR-D2.2 – Recommend new withdrawals, or retain existing ones, to protect cultural and natural resources from impacts that would otherwise result from authorized uses.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.2.1 – Recommend the continuation of all withdrawals, initiated by other agencies that are currently in effect, unless the initiating agency requests that the withdrawal be terminated.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.2.2 – Recommend modification or revocation of withdrawals that are no longer needed, in whole or part, for the purpose for which they were withdrawn.</p> <p>Action LR-D2.2.3 – Recommend new withdrawals on a case-by-case basis when such action is necessary to protect resource values.</p>

Special Designations (SD)

Goal SD-1 – Protect relevant and important values and protect the public from natural hazards.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective SD-A1.1 – Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA: Preserve the existing plant communities in an unmodified condition as a typical representation of a black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood habitat type for the primary purpose of research and education (Maps 46 and 51).</p> <p>Action SD-A1.1.1 – Manage the area in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner (Map 51).</p>	<p>Objective SD-B1.1 – Hideaway Islands: Preserve the existing plant communities in an unmodified condition as a typical representation of a black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood habitat type for the primary purpose of research and education through designation as an RNA/ACEC (Maps 46 and 51).</p> <p>Action SD-B1.1.1 – Manage the area in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO-1 surface use stipulation • ROW avoidance area 	<p>Objective SD-C1.1 – Same as Alternative B (Maps 46 and 51).</p> <p>Action SD-C1.1.1 – Manage the area in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO-1 surface use stipulation • ROW exclusion area • Recommend withdrawal from mining 	<p>Objective SD-D1.1 – Same as Alternative B (Maps 46 and 51).</p> <p>Action SD-D1.1.1 – Manage the area in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO-1 surface use stipulation to allow mineral leasing and sales without impacting relevant and important values

Special Designations (SD)

laws

- ROW exclusion area. No ROW (e.g., for a road) would be granted within or through the RNA

<p>Objective SD-A1.2 – Lund Creek RNA: Protect unique natural features and ecological diversity for research and education (Map 46).</p> <p>Action SD-A1.1.1 – Scientists and educators are encouraged to use the area for study purposes.</p> <p>Action SD-A1.1.2 – All uses must be nondestructive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) or vehicle use is permitted 	<p>Objective SD-B1.2 – Lund Creek: Protect unique natural features and ecological diversity for research and education through designation as an RNA/ACEC (Maps 46 and 55).</p> <p>Action SD-B1.1.1 – Scientists and educators are encouraged to use the area for study purposes.</p> <p>Action SD-B1.2.1 – All uses must be nondestructive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) • All vehicles will be limited to designated routes • NSO-1 surface use stipulation • ROW avoidance area 	<p>Objective SD-C1.2 – Same as Alternative B (Maps 46 and 55).</p> <p>Action SD-C1.2.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action SD-C1.2.2 – All uses must be nondestructive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) except to treatments to prevent spread of invasive species • All vehicles will be limited to designated routes • NSO-1 surface use stipulation • ROW exclusion area • Recommend withdrawal from mining laws if released from WSA status 	<p>Objective SD-D1.2 – Same as Alternative B (Maps 46 and 55).</p> <p>Action SD-D1.2.1 – Same as Alternative C.</p> <p>Action SD-D1.2.2 – All uses must be nondestructive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) except to treatments to prevent spread of invasive species. The vegetation must be allowed to remain in a natural, untreated state for scientific study and education • NSO-1 surface use stipulation to allow mineral leasing and sales without impacting relevant and important values • ROW exclusion area. No ROW (e.g., for a road) would be granted within or through the RNA
<p>Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative A.</p>	<p>Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative B.</p> <p>Action SD-C1.3.1 – Determine if the historic structures at the Liberal King site should be removed to provide for public safety. If so, then record the structures to appropriate standards before removal.</p> <p>Action SD-C1.3.2 – Determine if the Constitution Mine foundations should be removed to provide for public safety, and if so</p>	<p>Objective SD-C1.3 – Protect the public from natural hazards and protect cultural values at the Constitution Mine and Mill Site and the Liberal King Mine Site through ACEC designation (Maps 46, 47, and 54).</p> <p>Action SD-C1.3.1 – Determine if the historic structures at the Liberal King site should be removed to provide for public safety. If so, then record the structures to appropriate standards before removal.</p> <p>Action SD-C1.3.2 – Determine if the Constitution Mine foundations should be removed to provide for public safety, and if so</p>	<p>Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative D.</p>

Special Designations (SD)

then record the features to appropriate standards before removal.

Action SD-C1.3.3 – Evaluate hazardous materials and determine the optimum cleanup procedures or other actions to ensure public safety.

Action SD-C1.3.4 – NSO-1.

Action SD-C1.3.5 – ROW avoidance.

Action SD-C1.3.6 – Recommend withdrawal from mining laws.

Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative A.

Objective SD-C1.4 – Protect the public from natural hazards at the Hecla-Star Tailings Pile, Motherlode Mine, Nabob Millsite, Rex Millsite Tailings Pile, Sidney Mine & Millsite, Wallace Landfill, and We-Like Mine through ACEC designation (Maps 46, 50, 54, 56, 59, 61, and 62).

Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative D.

Action SD-C1.4.1 – Evaluate hazardous materials and determine the optimum cleanup procedures or other actions to ensure public safety.

Action SD-C1.4.2 – NSO-1.

Action SD-C1.4.3 – ROW avoidance.

Action SD-C1.4.4 – Recommend withdrawal from mining laws.

Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative A.

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Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative B.

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Objective SD-C1.5 – Protect relevant and important values, and protect the public from natural hazards at Killamey Lake through ACEC designation (Maps 46 and 52).

Note: See Social and Economic (SE) – Health and Safety Section for management goal (SE-2), objectives, and actions related to hazardous materials under Alternative D.

Action SD-C1.5.1 – Evaluate hazardous materials and determine the optimum cleanup procedures or other actions to ensure public safety.

Action SD-C1.5.2 – NSO-1.

Action SD-C1.5.3 – ROW avoidance.

Action SD-C1.5.4 – Check to see if this area is already withdrawn. If so, continue withdrawal.

Special Designations (SD)

Objective SD-C1.6 – Farnham Forest RNA:
Protect unique natural features and ecological diversity for research and education through designation as an ACEC (Maps 46 and 48).

Objective SD-D1.6 – Same as Alternative C
(Maps 46 and 48).

Action SD-C1.6.1 – Scientists and educators
are encouraged to use the area for study purposes.

Action SD-D1.6.1 – Same as Alternative C.

Action SD-C1.6.2 – All uses must be
nondestructive.

Action SD-D1.6.2 –All uses must be
nondestructive.

- No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) except for purposes of scientific research and education, or to prevent the spread of invasive species
- Closed to motorized or mechanized vehicles
- NSO-1 surface use stipulation
- ROW exclusion area
- Recommend withdrawal from mining laws
- No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) except for purposes of scientific research and education, or to prevent the spread of invasive species. The vegetation must be allowed to remain in a natural, untreated state for scientific study and education.
- NSO-1 surface use stipulation to allow mineral leasing and sales without impacting relevant and important values
- ROW exclusion area. No ROW (e.g., for a road) would be granted within or through the RNA

Action SD-D1.6.3 – Acquire trail/road
easement across private land from the county road for administrative access

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Objective SD-C1.7 – Gamlin Lake: Preserve the existing wetland and riparian plant communities in a condition that protects ecological diversity and five BLM sensitive plant species through designation as an ACEC (Maps 46 and 49).

Action SD-C1.7.1 – Limit management
actions and authorized uses to those that maintain or enhance the existing habitat and plant communities.

- Vehicles limited to designated routes
- NSO-1 surface use stipulation
- ROW exclusion area
- Recommend withdrawal from

Special Designations (SD)

mining laws

Action SD-C1.7.2 – Conduct public outreach concerning impacts of disturbance and/or weedy species on the riparian/wetland communities.

Objective SD-C1.8 – Morton Slough: Preserve the existing plant communities in a condition that protects old growth ponderosa pine, bald eagles, and ecological diversity through designation as an ACEC (Maps 46 and 57).

Action SD-C1.8.1 – Limit management actions and authorized uses to those that maintain and encourage old growth ponderosa pine forest stand characteristics, where ecologically feasible.

- Closed to motorized or mechanized vehicles
- NSO-1 surface use stipulation
- ROW avoidance area
- Recommend withdrawal from mining laws

Action SD-C1.8.2 – Implement management Action 4 listed under Goal SS-1, Objective SS-1.1.

Objective SD-C1.9 – Windy Bay: Preserve the existing remnant grassland community through designation as an ACEC (Maps 46 and 63).

Action SD-C1.9.1 – Limit management actions and authorized uses to those that maintain or enhance the remnant grassland community.

- Motorized vehicles limited to designated routes
- NSO-1 surface use stipulation
- ROW exclusion area
- Recommend withdrawal from mining laws

Objective SD-D1.9 – Windy Bay: Preserve the existing remnant grassland community for scientific research and education through designation as an RNA/ACEC (Maps 46 and 63).

Action SD-C1.9.1 – Limit management actions and authorized uses to those that maintain or enhance the remnant grassland community.

- NSO-1 surface use stipulation to allow mineral leasing and sales without impacting relevant and important values
- ROW exclusion area. No ROW (e.g., for a road) would be granted within or through the RNA
- Use fire as needed to prevent woody species invasion/dominance and to

Special Designations (SD)

<p>Continued on page 2-124</p>	<p>Continued on page 2-124</p>	<p>reduce litter accumulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for weed invasion/encroachment and treat, if necessary <p>Action SD-D1.9.2 – Same as Alternative C.</p>	<p>Action SD-C1.9.2 – Conduct public outreach with adjacent landowners for awareness of site rarity.</p> <p>Action SD-C1.10 – Protect the cultural and scenic values, and wolverine denning habitat, within the Rochat Divide area through designation as an ACEC (Maps 46 and 60).</p> <p>Action SD-C1.10.1 – Limit management actions and authorized uses to those that protect or enhance these resource values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized vehicles limited to designated routes • NSO-1 surface use stipulation • ROW avoidance • Recommend withdrawal from mining laws <p>Objective SD-C1.11 – Manage the Pulaski Tunnel to encourage public use through interpretation by designation as an ACEC (Maps 46 and 58).</p> <p>Action SD-C1.11.1 – Management actions and authorized uses must protect or enhance these resource values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO-1 surface use stipulation • Recommend withdrawal from mining laws <p>Action SD-C1.11.2 – Encourage public and other agency involvement in developing interpretive plans for this area.</p> <p>Objective SD-C1.12 – Manage the Kootenai River Front to protect habitat for White Sturgeon, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and bald eagles (Maps 46 and 53).</p> <p>Action SD-C1.12.1 – Limit management actions and authorized uses to those that</p>
		<p>Objective SD-D1.11 – Same as Alternative C (Maps 46 and 58).</p> <p>Action SD-D1.11.1 – Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Action SD-D1.11.2 – Same as Alternative C.</p>	

Special Designations (SD)

maintain or enhance aquatic and riparian habitat.

- NSO-1
- ROW avoidance
- Continue power site withdrawal

Action SD-C1.12.2 – See management actions for SSS – aquatic and terrestrial (bald eagle) wildlife.

Objective SD-C1.13 – Manage the Little North Fork Clearwater Headwaters (Widow Mountain) for scenic values and habitat for bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and Canada lynx through ACEC designation (Maps 46 and 55).

Action SD-C1.13.1 – See Objective SS-C1.1 (Special Status Species)

- SS-C1.1.1
- SS-C1.1.2
- SS-C1.1.5
- FW-C1.1.1 (Riparian)

Objective SD-C1.14 – Manage Wolf Lodge Bay to protect habitat for bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, bald eagles, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and migratory birds (Maps 46 and 64).

Action SD-C1.14.1 – See Objective SS-C1.1 (Special Status Species)

- SS-C1.1.1
- SS-C1.1.2
- SS-C1.1.4
- FW-D1.1.1 (Riparian)

Goal SD-2 – Identify river segments suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, protecting outstandingly remarkable resource values in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and BLM manual guidance.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
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Special Designations (SD)

Objective SD-A2.1.1 – Make no suitability recommendations but provide indefinite protective management to preserve identified outstandingly remarkable resource values of the five eligible river segments (Maps 65 and 71).

Action SD-A2.1.1 – The following stream segments are identified as eligible and would receive protective management:

- Kootenai River (14 miles) – from the Idaho/Montana state line downstream past Hideaway Islands
- Little North Fork Clearwater River – from its source at Fish Lake downstream 3.61 miles to the National Forest boundary
- Lost Lake Creek – its entire 3.43- mile length
- Little Lost Lake Creek – its entire 3.09-mile length
- Lund Creek – its entire 3.88-mile length

Action SD-A2.1.2 – Establish the following protective management guidelines:

- Approve no actions altering the free-flowing nature of the eligible stream segments through impoundments, diversions, channeling, or riprapping.
- Approve no actions that would measurably diminish a stream segment's identified outstandingly

Objective SD-B2.1 – Make no suitability recommendations concerning the five eligible river segments, and manage the river segments and associated corridor lands in accordance with the prescriptions described throughout Alternative B rather than under the protective management objectives for eligible or suitable rivers (Maps 66 and 71).

Action SD-B2.1.1 – Make a nonsuitable determination for the following river segments and take no Wild and Scenic River management actions:

- Kootenai River (14 miles)
- Little North Fork Clearwater River (3.61 miles)
- Lost Lake Creek (3.43 miles)
- Little Lost Lake Creek (3.09 miles)
- Lund Creek (3.88 miles)

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Objective SD-C2.1 – Find all five eligible river segments suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (Maps 67 and 71).

Action SD-C2.1.1 – Make the following suitability recommendations:

- Kootenai River (14 miles) – recreational classification from the Idaho/Montana state line downstream past Hideaway Islands
- Little North Fork Clearwater River (3.61 miles) – wild classification (2.51 miles) from its source at Fish Lake downstream to Forest Road # 1925 and the remaining downstream segment classified as recreational (1.10 miles)
- Lost Lake Creek (3.43 miles) – wild classification (3.09 miles) from its source downstream to Forest Road #1925 and the remaining downstream segment classified as scenic (0.34 miles).
- Little Lost Lake Creek (3.09 miles) – wild classification for its entire length
- Lund Creek (3.88 miles) – wild classification for its entire length

Action SD-C2.1.2 – Until designated or released to multiple-use by Congress, adopt the same protective management guidelines as identified in Alternative A. In addition:

- Wild eligible segments – NSO-1/ROW exclusion
- Scenic and recreation eligible – CSU-3/ROW avoidance

Objective SD-D2.1 – Find select river segments suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (Maps 68 and 71).

Action SD-D2.1.1 – Make the following suitability recommendations:

- Little North Fork Clearwater River (3.61 miles) – wild classification (2.51 miles) from its source at Fish Lake downstream to Forest Road # 1925 and the remaining downstream segment classified as recreational (1.10 miles)
- Lost Lake Creek (3.43 miles) – wild classification from its source downstream to Forest Road #1925 and the remaining downstream segment classified as scenic (0.34 miles)
- Little Lost Lake Creek (3.09 miles) – wild classification for its entire length
- Lund Creek (3.88 miles) – wild classification for its entire length

Action SD-D2.1.2 – Until designated or released to multiple-use by Congress, adopt the same protective management guidelines as identified in Alternative A. In addition:

- Wild eligible segments – NSO-1/ROW exclusion
- Scenic and recreation eligible – CSU-3/ROW avoidance

Special Designations (SD)

remarkable value(s), affecting its potential future suitability.

- Approve no actions that would modify the setting or level of development of an eligible river segment to a degree that would change its identified potential classification.

Action SD-A2.1.3 – Protective management would be subject to valid existing rights.

Action SD-C2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SD-C2.1.4 – Defer implementation action on these suitability recommendations until the Forest Service makes suitability determinations affecting National Forest Lands on the same streams and is in concurrence with the BLM.

Action SD-D2.1.3 – Protective management would be subject to valid existing rights.

Action SD-D2.1.4 – Defer implementation action on the suitability recommendations contained at Action SD-D2.1.1 until the Forest Service makes suitability determinations affecting National Forest Lands on the same streams. Take coordinated implementation actions if suitability recommendations between the agencies are in concurrence. Proceed unilaterally with implementation actions affecting only the BLM lands if agency recommendations diverge.

Action SD-C2.1.5 – Implement designation action on the Kootenai River in accordance with Section 2 (a) (ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by encouraging the Governor of the State of Idaho to petition the Secretary of the Interior for designation.

Action SD-D2.1.5 – Defer making a suitability recommendation on the Kootenai River until the Forest Service completes evaluation of suitability affecting the National Forest Lands along the River in Idaho and Montana. In the interim, provide protective management in accordance with Action SD-A2.1.2. Reevaluate suitability when National Forest Lands are recommended as either suitable or unsuitable. Make a suitable recommendation contingent on Forest Service concurrence and favor implementation in accordance with Section 2 (a) (ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by encouraging the Governor of the State of Idaho to petition the Secretary of the Interior for designation.

Goal SD-3 – Manage Wilderness Study areas (WSAs) so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness until such time as Congress either designates them as wilderness or releases them from further study.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective SD-B3.1 – Protect wilderness characteristics of WSAs until released by Congress for multiple uses (Map 66).	Objective SDC3.1 – Same as Alternative B (Map 67).	Objective SD-D3.1 – Protect wilderness characteristics of WSAs until released by Congress for multiple uses (Map 68).	

Special Designations (SD)

Action SD-A3.1.1 – Implement BLM IMP (H-8550-1).

Action SD-B3.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SD-C3.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SD-D3.1.1 – Implement BLM IMP (H-8550-1).

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<p>Objective SD-B3.2 – When released by Congress from further study, manage the WSAs for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative B.</p> <p>Action SD-B3.2.1 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Selkirk Crest area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive recreation management • VRM Class II • Wheeled vehicles limited to designated routes • No restrictions – snowmobiles • Custodial timber management • ROW available • Leasable Minerals – Available • Locatable Minerals – Available 	<p>Objective SD-C3.2 – When released by Congress from further study, manage the WSAs for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative C.</p> <p>Action SD-C3.2.1 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Selkirk Crest area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive recreation management • VRM Class II • Vehicles limited to designated routes • ROW available • Leasable Minerals – Available • Locatable Minerals – Available 	<p>Objective SD-D3.2 – If released by Congress from further study, manage the WSAs for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative D.</p> <p>Action SD-D3.2.1 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Selkirk Crest area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive recreation management • VRM Class II • Wheeled vehicles limited to designated routes • No restrictions – snowmobiles – • Allow vegetation treatments as outlined in the forest vegetation section • ROW available • Leasable Minerals – Available • Locatable Minerals – Available
<p>Action SD-B3.2.2 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Crystal Lake area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semiprimitive motorized, Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA • VRM Class II • Vehicle use limited to designated routes • Custodial timber management – no permanent road construction • ROW available • Leasable Minerals – Available • Locatable Minerals – Available except withdrawn recreation sites 	<p>Action SD-C3.2.2 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Crystal Lake area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semiprimitive motorized, Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA • VRM Class II • Vehicle use limited to designated routes • ROW avoidance • Leasable Minerals – NSO-1 • Locatable Minerals – Recommend withdrawal 	<p>Action SD-D3.2.2 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Crystal Lake area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semiprimitive motorized, Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA • VRM Class II • Vehicle use limited to designated routes • Leasable Minerals – NSO-1

Special Designations (SD)

Special Designations (SD)		
Action SD-B3.2.3 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Grandmother Mountain area:	Action SD-C3.2.3 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Grandmother Mountain area:	Action SD-D3.2.3 – Adopt the following management prescription for the Grandmother Mountain area:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive recreation management • VRM Class II • Vehicle use limited to designated routes • Custodial timber management – no permanent road construction • ROW available • Leasable Minerals – Available • Locatable Minerals – Available • Lund Creek RNA/ACEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semiprimitive motorized, Widow Mountain SRMA • VRM Class II • Vehicle use limited to designated routes • ROW – avoidance • Leasable Minerals – NSO-1 • Lund Creek RNA • Wild and Scenic River Designations – Little North Fork Clearwater River and tributaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semiprimitive motorized, Widow Mountain SRMA • VRM Class II, Except for Lund Creek RNA, which will continue as Class I • Vehicle use limited to designated routes • Leasable Minerals – NSO-1 • Lund Creek RNA • Wild and Scenic River Designations – Little North Fork Clearwater River and tributaries

Goal SD-4 – Administratively designate and manage select areas to provide special or unique quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Objective SD-A4.1 – Manage select routes as National Recreation Trails to provide opportunities for visitors to pursue trail-related outdoor recreation activities for enjoyment and appreciation of open-air outdoor areas (Map 65).</p> <p>Action SD-A4.1.1 – Continue the National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations for the Mineral Ridge and the Marble Creek trail system (Map 65).</p>	<p>Objective SD-B4.1 – Same as Alternative A (Map 66).</p> <p>Action SD-B4.1.1 – Continue the National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations for the Mineral Ridge and Marble Creek trail system, and nominate the following additional routes for designation (Map 66):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty Bay Trail: 0.4 miles • Blackwell Island Boardwalk: 0.25 miles • Gamlin Lake Trails: 4.3 miles 	<p>Objective SD-C4.1 – Same as Alternative A (Map 67).</p> <p>Action SD-C4.1.1 – Same as Alternative B, except as follows (Map 67):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty Bay Trail: 0.4 miles • Blackwell Island Boardwalk: 0.25 miles • Gamlin Lake Trails: 4.3 miles • Crystal Lake Trails: 3.2 miles 	<p>Objective SD-D4.1 – Same as Alternative A (Map 68).</p> <p>Action SD-D4.1.1 – Continue the National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations for the Mineral Ridge and the Marble Creek trail system and nominate the following additional routes for designation (Map 68):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty Bay Trail: 0.4 miles • Blackwell Island Boardwalk: 0.25 miles • Gamlin Lake Trails: 4.3 miles • Crystal Lake Trails: 3.2 miles

Special Designations (SD)

<p>Action SD-A4.1.2 – Maintain the trails and related facilities in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for their intended use).</p>	<p>Action SD-B4.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SD-C4.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SD-D4.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action SD-A4.1.3 – Maintain recreation settings and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the recreation and travel and transportation management sections.</p>	<p>Action SD-B4.1.3 – Maintain recreation settings and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the recreation and travel and transportation management sections for Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action SD-C4.1.3 – Maintain recreation settings and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the recreation and travel and transportation management sections for Alternative C.</p>	<p>Action SD-D4.1.3 – Maintain recreation settings and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the recreation and travel and transportation management sections for Alternative D.</p>
<p>Objective SD-A4.2 – Manage select sites as Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas to highlight and provide opportunities for visitors to observe wildlife in natural settings for personal enrichment or learning through environmental education (Map 65).</p>	<p>Objective SD-B4.2 – Same as Alternative A (Map 66).</p>	<p>Objective SD-C4.2 – Same as Alternative A (Map 67).</p>	<p>Objective SD-D4.2 – Same as Alternative A (Map 68).</p>
<p>Action SD-A4.2.1 – Continue to recognize the following sites as Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas (Map 65):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Coeur d'Alene River • Cougar Bay • Gamlin Lake • Wolf Lodge Bay 	<p>Action SD-B4.2.1 – Recognize the following sites as Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas (Map 66):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwell Island • Blue Creek Bay • Lower Coeur d'Alene River • Cougar Bay • Gamlin Lake • Wolf Lodge Bay 	<p>Action SD-C4.2.1 – Same as Alternative B (Map 67).</p>	<p>Action SD-D4.2.1 – Recognize the following sites as Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas (Map 68):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwell Island • Blue Creek Bay • Lower Coeur d'Alene River • Cougar Bay • Gamlin Lake • Wolf Lodge Bay
<p>Action SD-A4.2.2 – Maintain the recreation and transportation facilities related to the viewing areas in good condition (defined as safe, clean appearing, and functional for their intended use).</p>	<p>Action SD-B4.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SD-C4.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SD-D4.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action SD-A4.2.3 – Maintain wildlife habitats, maintain recreation settings, and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the wildlife, recreation, and transportation and travel management sections for Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SD-B4.2.3 – Maintain wildlife habitats, maintain recreation settings, and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the wildlife, recreation, and transportation and travel management sections for Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action SD-C4.2.3 – Maintain wildlife habitats, maintain recreation settings, and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas, as described in the wildlife, recreation, and transportation and travel management sections for Alternative C.</p>	<p>Action SD-D4.2.3 – Maintain wildlife habitats, maintain recreation settings, and provide appropriate visitor controls for the areas as described in the wildlife, recreation, and transportation and travel management sections for Alternative D.</p>
<p>Objective SD-A4.3 – Manage select routes as Backcountry Byways to highlight and provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized pleasure driving activities in natural and semi-primitive settings (Map 65).</p>	<p>Objective SD-B4.3 – Manage select routes as Backcountry Byways to highlight and provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized pleasure driving activities for the enjoyment, discovery, and exploration of natural and</p>	<p>Objective SD-C4.3 – Same as Alternative B (Map 67).</p>	<p>Objective SD-D4.3 – Same as Alternative B (Map 68).</p>

Special Designations (SD)

semiprimitive settings (Map 66).

Action SD-B4.3.1 – Recognize the Rochat Divide Road (including the Phillips Draw Road and spur to the summit of St. Joe Baldy) as a Backcountry Byway.

Action SD-C4.3.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SD-B4.3.1 – Recognize the Rochat Divide Road (including the Phillips Draw Road) as a Backcountry Byway.

Action SD-C4.3.2 – Work with the Forest Service to jointly recognize Road 301 through the Widow Mountain area as a Backcountry Byway.

Action SD-D4.3.2 – Same as Alternative C.

Social and Economic (SE)Native American Tribal Uses

Goal SE-1 – *Manage natural and cultural resources consistent with treaty and trust responsibilities to Native American tribes.*

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective SE-A1.1 – Maintain and, where possible, improve natural and cultural resource conditions to enhance opportunities to exercise Native American traditional uses.	Objective SE-B1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-C1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-D1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A1.1.1 – Consult with Native American tribes to identify culturally significant plants, animals, fish, and important habitats.	Action SE-B1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D1.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A1.1.2 – Consult with Native American tribes and allow collection of vegetal resources consistent with other resource goals/objectives.	Action SE-B1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D1.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.
	Action SE-B1.1.3 – Incorporate important habitat information into monitoring protocols to assess habitat conditions.	Action SE-C1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SE-D1.1.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Health and Safety

Goal SE-2 – *Reduce threats to public health, safety, and property from exposure to hazards associated with abandoned mine lands and hazardous materials.*

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective SE-A2.1 – Identify potential hazard sites and prioritize those that pose a risk.	Objective SE-B2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-C2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-D2.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Social and Economic (SE)

Action SE-A2.1.1 – Identify Abandoned Mine Land (AML), hazardous materials, solid waste, and other hazard sites.	Action SE-B2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.1.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.1.2 – Assess level of risk at hazard sites and prioritize high-risk sites.	Action SE-B2.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.1.2 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.1.3 – Rank physical hazard sites for corrective actions.	Action SE-B2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.1.3 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.1.4 – Maintain an inventory of AML and hazardous material sites.	Action SE-B2.1.4 – Maintain an inventory of AML and hazardous material sites with site files and databases.	Action SE-C2.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SE-D2.1.4 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action SE-B2.1.5 – Regularly assess recreation facilities and use areas for safety hazards and, when deemed necessary, develop and take corrective actions to correct these hazards.	Action SE-C2.1.5 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SE-D2.1.5 – Same as Alternative B.
Objective SE-A2.2 – Whenever practicable or possible, mitigate newly discovered or reported physical and chemical hazards within 120 days to ensure visitor or public safety.	Objective SE-B2.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-C2.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-D2.2 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.2.1 – Newly discovered or reported hazards are to be investigated and corrected or mitigated in a timely manner using standard procedures.	Action SE-B2.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.2.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.2.2 – All incidences of hazardous materials on public land are handled as outlined in the District's contingency plan.	Action SE-A2.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.2.2 – Same as Alternative A.
Objective SE-A2.3 – Correct physical safety hazards and cleanup hazardous materials sites on public lands.	Objective SE-B2.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-C2.3 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-D2.3 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.3.1 – Pursue the reduction of hazards, particularly at abandoned mines and facilities on public lands, to ensure they are safe for employees and the public.	Action SE-B2.3.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.3.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.3.1 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.3.2 – Cleanup and reclamation of sites would be conducted in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	Action SE-B2.3.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.3.2 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.3.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Social and Economic (SE)

(CERCLA).

Objective SE-A2.4 – Ensure that the remedy at closed/remediated sites remains protective of human health, welfare, and/or the environment where potentially hazardous substances remain.	Objective SE-B2.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-C2.4 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-D2.4 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.4.1 – Review the performance by monitoring the actions and remedy at sites where hazardous substances remain.	Action SE-B2.4.1 – Review the performance by monitoring the actions and remedy at hazardous substance sites following written monitoring plans.	Action SE-C2.4.1 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SE-D2.4.1 – Monitor the effectiveness of corrective actions at hazardous substance sites.
	Action SE-B2.4.2 – Review the performance no less than every five years of the remedy for sites where hazardous substances remain to ensure the remedy remains.	Action SE-C2.4.2 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SE-D2.4.2 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action SE-B2.4.3 – All actions authorizing the use of or potential for closed and remediated sites where potentially hazardous substances remain at the site on public lands will comply with federal and state regulations, and where appropriate, special stipulations will be developed as part of the permit, lease, or other action to assure human and natural resource safety.	Action SE-C2.4.3 – Use ACEC designations and plans to protect significant or at-risk closed and remediated sites where potentially hazardous substances remain at the site. All actions authorizing the use at these sites on public lands will comply with all applicable federal and state regulations, and appropriate special stipulations will be developed as part of the permit, lease, or other action to assure human and natural resource safety.	Action SE-D2.4.3 – Same as Alternative B.
	Action SE-B2.4.4 – Closed and remediated sites with potentially hazardous substances remaining at the site should be restricted with no surface occupancy with special conditions requiring no disturbance of the hazardous materials or stipulations to ensure that they are properly handled and bonded.	Action SE-C2.4.4 – Same as Alternative B.	Action SE-D2.4.4 – Closed and remediated sites with potentially hazardous substances remaining at the site should be restricted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO-6 • Closed to motorized vehicles when appropriate • Ensure mineral developments are appropriately handled and bonded
Objective SE-A2.5 – Continue to manage and clean up contaminated public lands in the Coeur d'Alene basin and in parts of the expanded Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site listing to protect the public, BLM employees, and the environment.	Objective SE-B2.5 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-C2.5 – Same as Alternative A.	Objective SE-D2.5 – Same as Alternative A.
Action SE-A2.5.1 – Take actions to clean up hazards and protect the public while maintaining consistency and coordination with	Action SE-B2.5.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-C2.5.1 – Same as Alternative A.	Action SE-D2.5.1 – Same as Alternative A.

Social and Economic (SE)

the Environmental Protection Agency's Records of Decision for Bunker Hill / Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Action SE-A2.5.2 – Continue coordination and cooperative efforts with the Natural Resources Damages federal trustees to restore the public lands and values in the basin.

Action SE-B2.5.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-C2.5.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-D2.5.2 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-A2.5.3 – Coordinate and work with the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up mixed ownership sites involving public land and to aid in implementing the Records of Decision for Bunker Hill / Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Action SE-B2.5.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-C2.5.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-D2.5.3 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-A2.5.4 – Coordinate and work with the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission in implementing the Coeur d'Alene Basin Record of Decision.

Action SE-B2.5.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-C2.5.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-D2.5.4 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-A2.5.5 – Ensure that BLM employees are properly trained and equipped to work with and around the contaminated and hazard areas within the basin.

Action SE-B2.5.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-C2.5.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-D2.5.5 – Same as Alternative A.

Action SE-B2.5.6 – Because of the extensive floodplain contamination, recreation planning within the Lower Coeur d'Alene River area will be coordinated with stakeholders to protect users.

Action SE-D2.5.6 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-B2.5.7 – Recreation planning and uses around Coeur d'Alene Lake need to take into account the State and Tribe Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan dealing with the protection of the water quality and metals.

Action SE-C2.5.7 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-D2.5.7 – Recreation planning and uses around Coeur d'Alene Lake must consider the State and Tribe Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan dealing with the protection of the water quality and metals.

Action SE-B2.5.8 – Recreation planning and use authorizations within the Silver Valley must consider mining and floodplain contamination and incorporate special conditions to ensure protection of people and the environment.

Action SE-C2.5.8 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-D2.5.8 – Same as Alternative B.

Objective SE-A2.6 – Safeguard human health, prevent environmental damage, and limit BLM liability from hazards by appropriate use

Objective SE-B2.6 – Same as Alternative A.

Objective SE-C2.6 – Same as Alternative A.

Objective SE-D2.6 – Same as Alternative A.

Social and Economic (SE)

authorization actions on public lands.

Action SE-A2.6.1 – All actions authorizing the use of or potential for hazardous materials on public lands will comply with federal and state regulations.

Action SE-A2.6.2 – Authorized actions related to land or minerals with hazardous materials are to be reviewed for compliance with federal and state regulations.

Action SE-B2.6.1 – All actions authorizing the use of or potential for hazardous materials on public lands will comply with federal and state regulations, and where appropriate, special stipulations will be developed as part of the permit, lease, or other action to assure human and natural resource safety.

Action SE-B2.6.2 – Authorized actions related to land or minerals with hazardous materials are to be reviewed periodically for compliance with federal and state regulations. Ensure compliance with special stipulations developed as part of the permit, lease, or other action.

Action SE-B2.6.3 – Exchange or disposal of lands with hazardous materials can be done only with potentially responsible parties.

Action SE-B2.6.4 – Do not permit unauthorized storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous materials on public lands.

Action SE-B2.6.5 – Sites with potentially hazardous materials should be restricted under the mining law with special conditions requiring no disturbance of the hazardous materials, or stipulations to ensure that they are properly handled and bonded under the mining law. Stipulate no surface occupancy for mineral leases within hazardous material sites (NSO-6 see Appendix H).

Action SE-C2.6.1 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-C2.6.2 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-C2.6.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-C2.6.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-C2.6.5 – Sites with significant hazardous materials including significant cleaned up and restored sites should be closed under the mining law.

Action SE-D2.6.1 – All actions authorizing the use of or potential for hazardous materials on public lands will comply with federal and state regulations, and where appropriate, special stipulations will be developed as part of the permit, lease, or other action to assure human and natural resource safety.

Action SE-D2.6.2 – Lands, reality, and minerals actions involving hazardous materials will be reviewed periodically for compliance with federal and state regulations, and special stipulations will be developed as part of the permit, lease, or other action.

Action SE-D2.6.3 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-D2.6.4 – Same as Alternative B.

Action SE-D2.6.5 – Sites with hazardous materials should stipulate no surface occupancy for mineral leases (NSO-6 see Appendix H). Ensure mineral developments are appropriately handled and bonded.

Sites with significant known hazardous materials will be closed to motorized vehicles when appropriate.

Goal SE-3 – Provide opportunities for economic benefits while protecting cultural and natural resources.

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Objective SE-A3 – Continue to provide opportunities for commercial use of natural resources at the current levels.	Objective SE-B3 – Emphasize opportunities for commercial use of natural resources, consistent with goals and objectives identified in other sections of this plan.	Objective SE-C3 – Resource protection takes precedence over opportunities for commercial activities and other noncommercial human uses.	Objective SE-D3 – Balance resource protection with opportunities for commercial activities and other noncommercial human uses.

2.5 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Table 2-2 provides a summary description of the general environmental consequences for each alternative. Alternative A would maintain the current effects on local economies and businesses that depend on uses of BLM-administered public lands for tourism, recreation, and resource extraction. However, this alternative also has the greatest potential of any alternative to result in impacts to the physical and biological environment. Taking no action would prohibit the BLM from implementing management measures needed to both protect resources and address concerns related to growing recreational uses. Alternative B offers the greatest potential economic benefit. This alternative would also result in impacts to the physical and biological environment, but less so than Alternative A. Alternative C would have the least potential impact on physical and biological resources, but the greatest potential for adverse impacts on the local economies. Alternative D would allow for most uses to continue or increase, but would constrain certain activities in order to reduce potential impacts. Potential for and magnitude of impacts under Alternative D would be between those under Alternatives B and C.

Table 2-2. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

RESOURCES				
Air Quality (AQ)				
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred	
Vegetation treatments, fire suppression, and transportation and travel would contribute particulate emissions from smoke and dust, but these impacts would be short-term and localized. Fire suppression would reduce short-term smoke emissions, but would also increase the potential for catastrophic wildfire which could create much greater amounts of smoke. Coordination of actions with policies and measures required under the Clean Air Act, Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan, IDEQ, and MIAG would reduce impacts.	Impacts would be the similar to Alternative A, except vegetation treatments would increase by 37% which would slightly increase short-term potential impacts. Fire use would be considered. This could potentially create greater short term smoke emissions, but would also reduce potential for greater long-term impacts from catastrophic wildland fire. Off-road motorized travel would not be allowed, which would greatly reduce the potential for fugitive dust. However, this alternative designates the greatest amount of roads, which could result in generation of dust.	Same as Alternative B, but to a lesser degree because Alternative C would have the least amount of vegetation treatments (83% decrease from current management), and the least amount of designated roads for travel, of any alternative.	Same as Alternative B, but to a lesser degree, though more than Alternative C.	
Geology (GE) and Soils (SO)				
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred	
Road construction for vegetation treatments and on rights-of-ways (ROWs), fire suppression activities, and transportation and travel would be the primary contributors to soil erosion and compaction. Road guidelines would reduce potential for these impacts.	Similar to Alternative A; however, management actions would outline more specific direction and BMPs for road construction and timber harvesting to reduce the potential for short- and long-term impacts. Wildland fire use would reduce the potential for catastrophic wild fire and associated erosion. Off-road motorized travel would not be allowed, which would greatly reduce the potential for erosion and compaction.	Same as Alternative B; however, this alternative would have the least amount of vegetation treatments, and the least amount of designated roads for travel, of any alternative.	Same as Alternative B	

Water (WR)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Soil erosion caused by road construction for vegetation treatments and rights-of-way would contribute sediments to streams. Off-road motorized travel would also cause soil erosion and sediment delivery to streams. Fire suppression would reduce the short-term potential for soil erosion and sediment, but would increase the potential for greater impacts from catastrophic wildfire. Protection of riparian habitat conservation areas would greatly reduce or eliminate potential impacts.	Similar to Alternative A; however, forest vegetation treatment would be 37 percent greater. BMPs would reduce potential impacts. Wildland fire use could cause short-term erosion and sediment delivery to streams, but would reduce the potential for greater impact from catastrophic wild fire. Designation of all riparian conservation areas as ROW avoidance areas would also help reduce potential impacts. Off-road motorized travel would not be allowed, which would greatly reduce the potential for erosion and sediment delivery. Establishment of conservation and restoration watersheds would provide more focused effort on restoration of damaged watersheds, and improvements to water quality.	Similar to Alternative B; however, forest vegetation potential for impacts would be greatly reduced due to the 83% reduction from current management of forest vegetation treatments.	Similar to Alternative B; however, forest vegetation treatments would only increase 17 percent from current management.

Vegetation (VF) – Forests and Woodlands			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Forest vegetation treatments and fire management would contribute to restoration of historic species composition. Fuel reduction (including prescribed burns) and other treatments would help restore historic structure and function, but fire suppression would have the opposite effect. Only 8% of the forested vegetation would receive treatment. Most of the remaining 92% would remain outside of historic range of variability.	Similar to Alternative A, except, approximately 12% (9,600 acres) of the total forested vegetation would be treated to restore historic composition and structure. Treatments would be specifically designed to restore both historic composition and structure. Fire use would allow fire to resume its role in the ecosystem, contributing to restoration of historic structure and function. Focusing treatments in FRCC II and III stands would also contribute to restoration of historic structure and	Similar to Alternative B, except approximately 1% (1,200 acres) of the total forested vegetation would be treated to restore historic composition. Different from Alternatives A and B, this alternative would actively restore and conserve aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands.	Same as Alternative B, except approximately 10% (8,200 acres) of the total forested vegetation would be treated to restore historic composition and structure. Like Alternative C, this alternative would actively restore and conserve aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands.

Vegetation (VF) – Forests and Woodlands			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
	function. This alternative contains specific guidance for identifying and protecting old growth stands.		

Vegetation (VR) – Riparian and Wetlands			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Implementation of the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) would establish riparian habitat conservation areas (RHCA) to protect and enhance riparian and wetland areas, while also helping to achieve the objective of 75 percent of these areas in proper functioning condition (PFC).	Implementation of the Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy (CNFISH) would establish riparian conservation areas (RCAs) to protect and enhance riparian and wetland areas, while helping to achieve the objective of 50 percent of these areas in PFC.	Same as Alternative B; except the objective would be 75 percent of riparian and wetland areas in PFC.	Same as Alternative C.

Vegetation – Nonforested (VN)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management requires that existing native plant communities be maintained.	Same as Alternative A; however, natural recovery and prevention of tree species in existing nonforested areas would be emphasized.	Same as Alternative B; however, management actions would be proactive in preventing offroad motorized vehicle use in nonforested areas to protect these areas from soil and vegetation disturbance. Native seedlings would be used to restore and enhance composition and structure.	Same as Alternative C.

Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (VW)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Actions would be implemented to contain the spread of weeds and to prevent new outbreaks. Actions in other resource programs have the potential to introduce and spread invasive species and noxious weeds; therefore, each resource program would	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A; except this alternative establishes vehicle wash requirements to further diminish the potential for the introduction and spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.	Same as Alternative A.

implement weed control components. Weed control would follow the procedures contained in the multiple agency Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) operating plans			
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Fish and Wildlife (FW) - Fish			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
INFISH guidance would be followed to protect and improve fish, aquatic, and riparian habitats, including identification of priority watersheds. RHCAs provide specific management measures. Fish passages would be improved at all road crossings, where beneficial. INFISH would prohibit the use of some fire suppression methods in RHCAs, except in cases where fire damage would cause long-term damage to the ecological health of riparian systems.	CNFISH guidance would be implemented to protect and improve fish, aquatic, and riparian habitats, and RCAs established. Four conservation and eight restorations watersheds are identified. Fish passages would be improved, as needed. CNFISH would prohibit the use of some fire suppression methods in RCAs, except in cases where fire damage would cause long-term damage to the ecological health of riparian systems.	Improvement and protection of fish, aquatic, and riparian habitats would be the same as Alternative B.	Improvement and protection of fish, aquatic, and riparian habitats would be the same as Alternative B.

Fish and Wildlife (FW) - Terrestrial			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
	Habitat management plans would be implemented for waterfowl, which could improve or decrease the quantity and quality of habitat available for migratory birds.		

Fish and Wildlife (FW) - Terrestrial			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Seasonal road closures in crucial winter range would reduce impacts on big game herds. Closing and partially obliterating roads would reduce direct, indirect, cumulative, and additive impacts on forest wildlife species.	Same as Alternative A; except the criteria for seasonal and permanent road closures would be more effective; vegetation treatments would be used to further improve deer and elk winter range. Off-road motorized travel (would not be allowed (except snowmobiles), which would further help reduce impacts to species sensitive to human activities.	Similar to Alternative B, except this alternative designates the least amount of roads for travel, and prohibits off-road motorized travel, including snowmobiles. Thus it provides the greatest protection of habitat for big game and other species that are sensitive human activities.	Same as Alternative B.
Snag management would leave habitat for cavity-dependent wildlife. A 100-yard buffer would be implemented around raptor nests. Grouse habitat would be actively improved	Similar to Alternative A; except the number of snags recruited would be less than Alternative A. Only a 50-yard buffer would be implemented around raptor nests. Actions to enhance furbearer habitat through CNFISH and other measures would maintain and enhance old growth forest stands	Similar to Alternative A; except snag recruitment would emphasize larger trees. No improvements for grouse habitat would be implemented. Actions to enhance furbearer habitat would be the same as Alternative B. Vegetation treatments could be restricted from May 15-July 15 to protect migratory birds. Such protections would also indirectly benefit disturbance during deer fawning and elk calving periods.	Snag recruitment would be the same as Alternative C. Buffer restrictions around raptor nests would be 100 yards outside urban areas, and 50 yards within rural areas. Improvements for grouse habitat and populations would be similar to Alternative B. Actions to enhance furbearer habitat would be the same as Alternative B. Vegetation treatment restrictions would be the same as Alternative C; where practicable.

Special Status Species (SS) - Fish			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Impacts from special status fish species management would be the same as described for fish under Alternative A in <i>Fish and Wildlife</i> above.	Impacts from special status fish species management would be the same as described for fish under Alternative B in <i>Fish and Wildlife</i> above. Specific habitat improvement measures would be implemented to protect and enhance populations of bull trout and white sturgeon.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B.

Special Status Species (SS) - Terrestrial				
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred	
Actions from all resource programs would comply with the Endangered Species Act and BLM Memorandum 80-722 to reduce the likelihood of harming or killing special status terrestrial wildlife species. Inventories and monitoring would be implemented.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	
Implementation of INFISH and RHCAs would indirectly improve riparian habitat for special status terrestrial wildlife that are riparian-dependent.	Implementation of CNFISH and RCAs would indirectly improve riparian habitat for special status terrestrial wildlife that are riparian-dependent.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	
Overall less potential to make progress toward recovery of special status species and their habitats.	Recovery activities would focus on protecting and improving habitat for: woodland caribou, bald eagle nesting and roosting sites, Canada lynx denning and snowshoe hare, grizzly bear, gray wolf denning and prey, wolverine, and fisher.	Same as Alternative B; except, management would be less humanly intrusive and rely more on natural recovery of habitats.	Same as Alternative B, except there are more conservation measures to protect federally listed species than other alternatives.	

Special Status Species (SS) - Plants				
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred	
Actions from all resource programs would comply with the Endangered Species Act and BLM Memorandum 80-722 to reduce the likelihood of harming or killing special status plant species.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	
Implementation of INFISH and RHCAs would improve riparian habitat for riparian-dependent special status plants.	Implementation of CNFISH and RCAs would improve riparian habitat riparian-dependent special status plants.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	
Overall less potential to make progress toward recovery of special status species and their habitats.	Recovery activities would focus on improving habitat for special status plants.	Same as Alternative B; except, management would be less humanly intrusive and rely more on natural recovery of habitats. Weed control would be prioritized	Same as Alternative B, except there are more conservation measures for federally listed species than other alternatives.	

Wildland Fire Management (WF)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
<p>Full wildland fire suppression would continue to be emphasized</p> <p>Appropriate management response would emphasize consideration of values at risk, firefighter and public safety, and resources available.</p> <p>Options for reducing FRCC using non-fire treatments (e.g., thinning, logging) would occur, but options for reducing FRCC using wildland fire would not occur.</p> <p>Greatest potential impacts on resources from catastrophic wildland fire resulting from an emphasis on fire suppression.</p>	<p>Full wildland fire suppression would be emphasized within the wildland urban interface (WUI); however, the wildland fire situation analysis (WFSA) process would be used to determine suppression tactics.</p> <p>Options for reducing FRCC using fire and non-fire treatments would occur.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
	<p>About 52, 319 acres identified as suitable for wildland fire use.</p> <p>Emphasis on protecting commodity resources. Increased risk of short-term impacts to soil, water quality, forested vegetation, fish and wildlife, special status species, recreation, and mining resources, but reduced risk of long-term impacts to these resources.</p> <p>Treatments to focus on reducing impacts from wildfire in the (WUI) and municipal watersheds.</p> <p>Minimum impact suppression tactics would be used in special designations (Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Research Natural Areas).</p>	<p>Low impact suppression techniques and protection of non-commodity resources emphasized. Less active prevention techniques emphasized would increase short-term risk to resources, and would increase long-term risks due to potential greater fuel loads.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternative B, but with greater emphasis on protecting non-commodity resources. Short-term impacts similar to Alternative B, but less than Alternative C. Impacts more dependent on the effectiveness in preventing large, uncontrolled fires.</p>
<p>Vegetation treatments to reduce FRCC and return forested vegetation stands would occur on approximately eight percent (7,000 acres) of the total forested vegetation</p> <p>Untreated stands would continue to remain outside their normal range of variability.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except, approximately 12 percent (9,600 acres) of the total forested vegetation would be treated to restore historic composition and structure.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A; except, only one percent (1,200 acres) of the total forested vegetation would be treated to restore historic composition and structure. As a result, this alternative would have the most potential for catastrophic wildfire.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except approximately 10 percent (8,200 acres) of the total forested vegetation would be treated to restore historic composition and structure.</p>

Cultural Resources (CR)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Current management would result in the greatest risk of direct impacts to cultural resources from land tenure adjustments, ROW development, and vegetation treatments. Risks to cultural resources from off-road OHV use would be the greatest under this Alternative as would the long-term risk to cultural resources from catastrophic wildland.	Would result in high risk to cultural resources because it anticipates the most surface disturbance and provides the fewest constraints on potentially incompatible activities. This Alternative would limit OHV use to designated routes reducing the risk of impacts. It would also consider adjustment of much less public land than current management.	The risk of impacts on cultural resources would be the least by limiting OHV use to designated routes, reducing forest vegetation treatments by 83%, and placing emphasis on resource protection instead of commodity production. However, this alternative identifies only slightly less public land available for adjustment than current management.	The risk of impacts on cultural resources would be reduced by limiting OHV use to designated routes. Potential for other impacts would be less than under Alternative B, but more than under Alternative C.

Paleontological Resources (PR)	
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative D: Preferred
The risk of impacts to paleontological resources would be very low due to low potential for occurrence of these resources.	Same as Alternative A.

Visual Resources (VR)		
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative D: Preferred
Risk of visual impacts would be greatest under Alternative A because restrictions apply to fewer acres in VRM II areas.	Risk of visual impacts would be greatest the same as Alternative A.	Risks to visual impacts would intermediary between Alternatives A and B and Alternative C.
Off-road motorized vehicle use could impact visual resources.	Off-road motorized travel would not be allowed, so potential impacts would be eliminated.	Same as Alternative B.

RESOURCE USES**Forestry and Woodland Products (FP)**

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
The PSQ is currently 3,700 MBF	The PSQ would be 5,100 MBF annually, a 37% increase.	The PSQ would be 880 MBF annually, an 83% decrease from current management.	The PSQ would be 4,400 MBF annually, a 17% increase from current management.

Livestock Grazing (LG)

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Continued implementation of BLM Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management would prevent or minimize environmental degradation and ensure good long-term site productivity, properly functioning conditions for riparian and wetland areas, ecologically healthier vegetation communities, improved water quality, and desirable native and nonnative plant and animal species and habitats.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Approximately 4,004 acres are currently allocated for livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative A.	Approximately 1,218 acres would be allocated for livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative C.

Minerals (MN)

Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Approximately five percent of BLM public lands are currently withdrawn from mining.	Same as Alternative A.	Approximately 31 percent of BLM public lands would be withdrawn from mining.	Approximately six percent of BLM public lands would be withdrawn from mining.
Approximately 24 percent of BLM public lands are currently closed to mineral leasing laws.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Currently no areas have leasing stipulations - no surface occupancy (NSO), controlled surface use (CSU), or timing limitations (TL).	NSO lease stipulations would occur on 15 percent of BLM public lands; CSU on 69 percent; and TL would occur on 29 percent.	NSO lease stipulations would occur on 29 percent of BLM public lands; CSU on 69 percent; and TL would occur on 29 percent.	Same as Alternative C.

Recreation (RC)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Recreation would be intensely managed, and the current setting protected on three percent of BLM public lands within special recreation management areas (SRMAs) to provide prescribed outdoor recreation opportunities.	Recreation would be more intensely managed and the current setting protected through designation of an additional three SRMA, totaling 66 percent of BLM public lands.	Intensive recreation management and protection of the current setting would occur within designated SRMAs totaling 63 percent of BLM public lands.	Intensive recreation management would and protection of the current setting would occur within designated SRMAs on 82 percent of BLM public lands - the greatest amount of all alternatives.
Custodial management of recreation within the extensive recreation management area (ERMA) would continue to occur on 97 percent of BLM public lands.	Custodial management for the ERMA would continue to occur on 34 percent of BLM public lands.	Custodial management for the ERMA would continue to occur on 37 percent of BLM public lands.	Custodial management for the ERMA would continue to occur on 18 percent of BLM public lands.
Minor displacement of recreational activities due to activities such as vegetation treatments and mineral development.	Greatest displacement of recreational activities due to surface disturbing activities, which could further reduce the quality of recreational experiences.	Least displacement of recreational activities due to less surface disturbing activities.	The potential for displacement of recreational activities due to surface disturbing activities is greater than Alternative C, but less than Alternatives A or B.

Renewable Energy (RE)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
This alternative would have the least restrictions on renewable energy development. Opportunity for use of biomass would be associated with forest vegetation treatments on 7,000 acres.	Wind energy development would be limited by ROW exclusion and avoidance areas. Opportunities for biomass would increase over current management due to a 37% increase in the acres of forest vegetation to be treated. Mineral leasing stipulations would place restrictions on geothermal development.	Same as Alternative B, except there would be the greatest amount of ROW exclusion areas, and the least amount of forest vegetation acres treated (84% decrease from current management)	Same as Alternative B, except there would be less area designated as a ROW avoidance area, and slightly fewer acres of forest vegetation treated (17% increase over current management).

Transportation and Travel Management (TM)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Travel management would be the least restrictive. Most BLM lands would be open to off-road motorized travel.	There would be no off-road motorized travel (except snowmobiles) but this alternative has the greatest amount of designated roads and trails.	There should be no off-road motorized travel, including snow-mobiles. This alternative has the least amount of designated roads and trails.	Similar to Alternative B, except with fewer designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty (LR)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Approximately 26 percent of BLM-managed land is currently available for exchange or adjustment.	Approximately 10 percent of BLM-managed land would be available for exchange or adjustment.	Approximately 25 percent of BLM-managed land would be available for exchange or adjustment.	Same as Alternative B.
No ROW corridors are currently designated; therefore, no exclusion and avoidance areas exist.	Approximately 26 percent of BLM-managed lands would have restrictions due to exclusion and/or avoidance designations.	Approximately 71 percent of BLM-managed lands would have restrictions due to exclusion and/or avoidance designations.	Approximately 35 percent of BLM-managed lands would have restrictions due to exclusion and/or avoidance designations.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC and Lund Creek RNA/ACEC would continue to be managed for the values for which they were established. Management would be applied to protect relevant and important values when activities are proposed.	Same as Alternative A; except, additional NSO and ROW avoidance restrictions would be applied to both special designations; vegetation manipulation and route designations would also be added to protect Lund Creek.	Same as Alternative B for Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC and Lund Creek RNA/ACEC. There would also be 19 additional ACECs designated, totaling an additional 23,275 acres, the greatest amount of any alternative.	Same as Alternative B; except three additional ACECs would be designated, totaling an additional 377 acres.
Five stream segments totaling 28 miles are currently eligible for wild and scenic river (WSR) protection, and would receive protective management.	All eligible WSRs would be considered non-suitable and receive no special management.	All eligible WSRs would be considered suitable and receive protective management until designated or released by Congress.	Same as Alternative C; except suitability determination for the Kootenai River segment would be deferred until IPNF makes a suitability determination on adjacent segments. All segments would receive protective management until designated or released by Congress, or (for the Kootenai) until determined unsuitable (if this should occur).
National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations include two routes, totaling 48.3 miles.	NRT designations would be expanded to include five routes, totaling 53.25 miles.	NRT designations would be expanded to include six routes, totaling 56.45 miles.	Same as Alternative C.
Back country byways would be managed selectively to provide natural and semi-primitive settings.	Back country byways would be recognized along 44 miles.	Back country byways would be recognized along 54 miles.	Same as Alternative C.

Social and Economic (SE)			
Alternative A: No Action – Current Mgmt.	Alternative B: Commodity – Utility	Alternative C: Conservation – Protection	Alternative D: Preferred
Timber sales resulting from vegetation treatments would continue at current levels.	Greatest increase in potential timber sales resulting from vegetation treatments.	Smallest increase in potential timber sales resulting from vegetation treatments.	Increase in potential timber sales resulting from fuels treatments - greater than Alternative A, but less than Alternatives C and D.
No change in potential protection of public health and safety through inventories, corrective actions, closures, and other mitigative measures aimed cleaning up abandoned mine lands (AMLs) and hazardous materials (HM) sites.	Increase in inventories, corrective actions, closures, and other mitigative measures over Alternative A.	Increase in inventories, corrective actions, closures, and other mitigative measures over Alternatives A and B. Alternative C would use ACEC designations to protect significant and at-risk closed and remediated sites.	Increase in inventories, corrective actions, closures, and other mitigative measures over Alternatives A and B with hazmat sites closed to motorized vehicles.
Availability and access to sites, resources, and resource uses of interest to Native Americans could be limited in the short-term by vegetation treatments. Restoration of historic species composition and return of fire to its natural role from these treatments would likely increase general ecosystem health. INFISH guidance and RHCAs would protect native fish and other wildlife habitat of interest to Native Americans.	This alternative has the greatest potential for short-term limitations on availability and access to sites, resources, and resource uses of interest to Native Americans while vegetation treatments are occurring. Vegetation treatments are directed specifically at restoration of historic composition, structure and function, so would be more effective at restoring the ecosystem. Elimination of off-road motorized travel may limit access for Native Americans, but it would also prevent impacts to sites and resources of interest. CNFISH guidance and RCAs would protect native fish and other wildlife habitat of interest to Native Americans similar to Alternative A. Designation of restoration and conservation watersheds would further protect and restore habitat, as well as place emphasis on water quality.	Least potential to affect Native American interests because management would emphasize preservation and conservation of resources, and calls for the least amount of vegetation treatment. However, without treatment, ecosystem restoration would not occur. Also, this alternative prohibits off-road motorized travel and has the least amount of designated roads, which both restricts access to and protects sites and resources from impacts. Impacts on fish and riparian habitat, and water quality would be the same as under Alternative B.	Similar to B, with more protection of resources of interest, and slightly less vegetation treatment and fewer designated roads.

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 3 – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a description of the existing biological, physical, and socioeconomic characteristics, including human uses that could be affected as a result of implementing the alternatives for this RMP/EIS as described in Chapter 2. Certain types of resources that may be present in other planning areas, such as cave and karst resources and wild horses and burros, do not exist in the Coeur d'Alene Field Office (CdA FO) and are therefore not covered in this section. Information from broad-scale assessments was used to help set the context for the planning area. The information and direction for BLM resources and resource uses has been further broken down into fine-scale assessments and information. Specific aspects of each resource discussed in this section (e.g., weeds, fire, OHV use) were raised during the public and agency scoping process. The level of information presented in this chapter is commensurate with and sufficient to assess potential effects discussed in Chapter 4 based on the alternatives presented in Chapter 2 of this RMP/EIS.

3.2 RESOURCES

This section contains a description of the existing biological and physical resources of the CdA FO and follows the order of topics addressed in Chapter 2. These topics are:

- Air Quality
- Geology
- Soils
- Water
- Vegetative Communities
- Fish and Wildlife
- Special Status Species
- Wildland Fire Ecology and Management
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Visual Resources

3.2.1 Air Quality

The Montana/Idaho Airshed Group (MIAG) has delineated three airsheds within the planning area. An airshed is a “geographical area in which atmospheric characteristics are similar, e.g. mixing height and transport widths” (MIAG 2003). The area of consideration for air quality includes these airsheds, as well as those over lands within 100 kilometers of the planning area. Air quality in the planning area is governed by the 1970 Clean Air Act (CAA) and its amendments and the 1999 Regional Haze Rule regulations. The State of Idaho has been given authority by EPA to oversee air quality in the state and to enforce regulations. The EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria air pollutants. These include two categories of particulate matter; fine particulates with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM₁₀), and fine particulates with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM_{2.5}). The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has included an additional standard for fluorides, bringing the applicable standards in Idaho to seven.

When an area within a state exceeds an ambient air quality standard, it may be designated as a nonattainment area (NAA). It is possible for a geographic area to be an attainment area for one criteria pollutant and a nonattainment area for another. Air monitoring networks that measure ambient air quality have been established to determine whether an area meets ambient air quality standards (IDEQ 2003a).

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In the past, PM₁₀ concentrations in the Sandpoint (Bonner County) and Pinehurst (Shoshone County) areas have exceeded the PM₁₀ NAAQS levels, and the areas were designated as nonattainment areas. Air quality in both of these areas improved in recent years, and the areas have been documented to be in compliance with the PM₁₀ NAAQS, though they currently remain designated as nonattainment areas. Air quality in the planning area is now generally in the “good” category of the Air Quality Index.

Smoke has been identified as the primary source of air quality impacts in the planning area. Air quality management in the CdA FO places priority on protecting human health and the environment by reducing the impacts to air quality from wildland and prescribed fire.

PM₁₀ data for the planning area have shown an improvement in air quality from ten years ago due to reductions in sources contributing to PM₁₀ events, especially during winter stagnation episodes. Monitoring for PM_{2.5} started in 1999 and has fewer years of complete data compared to the PM₁₀ database that started in the late 1980s. The annual averages for PM_{2.5} have shown a fairly constant level for the past several years.

Most BLM programs in the planning area are unlikely to affect air quality. Ongoing activities occurring on BLM-administered lands that may have minor impacts to air quality include wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire, mining and mineral processing, forestry, construction, off- and on-road vehicle use, and recreational use.

Areas that have been identified as sensitive to air quality include locations such as NAAs, Class I areas, impact zones, hospitals, airports, major transportation corridors, and population centers. Class I areas are defined in the Clean Air Act as national parks over 6,000 acres and wilderness areas and memorial parks over 5,000 acres, established as of 1977. No Class I areas have been identified in the planning area.

As noted above, the Sandpoint and Pinehurst PM₁₀ NAAs have been designated in the planning area. Emission sources for PM₁₀ in the Pinehurst area have been identified primarily as residential wood burning. Sources of PM₁₀ emissions in the Sandpoint area have been identified as residential wood burning, fugitive dust, and some industrial sources.

3.2.2 Geology

Physiography

The distinct physiographic character of the CdA FO reflects geologic differences in rock types, structures, and chemical and physical weathering processes. Elevation ranges from 2,000 feet up to peaks of 7,000 feet.

The eastern portion of the planning area is located in the Northern Rocky Mountain Physiographic Province. This province consists of a system of northerly trending mountains and broad upland plains. Broad plains of the Tristate Uplands occur in the southwestern extent of the planning area, reaching altitudes of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. The subdued nature of this feature is related to relatively flat volcanic flows in the area. The northern portion of the planning area contains the Purcell Trench, a long narrow valley surrounded by the mountains. The northern portion of the valley is well defined and relatively flat because of glacial scouring. Further south it becomes more diffuse and irregular, reflecting the irregular deposits left by glacial floodwaters.

Geologic History and Units

The geological history of central and northern Idaho is complex and spans billions of years. This discussion focuses on the significant geologic units in the planning area, in order from oldest to youngest.

The oldest rocks in the planning area are metamorphic, including a series called the Belt Super Group. The Belt Super Group, estimated at over 50,000 feet thick, consists of various rocks that have been subjected to low-grade metamorphism. This series and rocks that intruded it provide mineral resources in the planning area.

The southern portion of the planning area includes granitic rocks related to the Idaho Batholith. These large igneous rocks formed beneath the earth's surface by cooling magma. Because of their granular structure, soils that develop in granitic rocks are susceptible to surface erosion.

Volcanic flows of Columbia River Basalt cover a part of the western extent of the planning area. Combined, the flows are several thousands of feet thick. Extensive six-sided, columnar features formed as the basalt cooled. These columnar basalts provide sources of decorative stone in the planning area.

About 100,000 years ago, glaciers formed in southern Canada and began moving southward along main drainages through the planning area. Ice sheets advanced and retreated, scouring Coeur d'Alene and Pend Oreille lakes and leaving thick deposits of sand and gravel. Aggregate resources in the planning area are commonly derived from these glacial deposits.

More recently, alluvium from weathered and reworked material has been deposited along streams and rivers in the planning area. During and following the latest Ice Age, the streams and rivers of Idaho carried a larger volume of water than they do now, enabling them to carry more sediment. The natural, enhanced river flow and the periodic floods scoured out many of the larger river canyons and increased the downcutting and erosion of the rivers and mountains, leaving the landscape that is present today. Runoff is much lower now than during the last glacial event, creating rivers and streams that are undersized compared to the erosional features that they occupy.

3.2.3 Soils

The BLM parcels within the planning area range from bottomlands and terraces to mountain slopes and ridgetops. Most of the planning area is rugged, forested, mountainous, or hilly, with comparatively narrow valleys.

Soil Types

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has prepared detailed soil surveys for most lands in the planning area. Soils across the planning area vary with local geology, topographic relief, and climate. North of Coeur d'Alene, the soil parent material is primarily granitic and metasedimentary bedrock, overlain by glacial deposits. To the east, parent material is primarily metasedimentary rocks, including quartzites and argillites. Soils on floodplains and terraces are more than 60 inches deep and are formed in loamy material deposited by water or glacial drift. All other soils vary in depth from less than 20 inches to more than 60 inches. The temperature gradient in the planning area follows elevation, and precipitation patterns are complex, resulting in local variation in microclimates that affect soil conditions.

Erosion

Limited mass movement has occurred in the past on public land within the planning area. Some geologic and localized erosion, caused by roads and other concentrated uses, still occurs in the planning area (Stevenson 2004). In the Silver Valley, mining has destabilized streams and floodplains, extensively displacing riparian soils. Other impacts include direct soils contamination from mine tailings piles and fluvial deposition of mine waste, most notably in the Canyon and Pine Creek drainages. Decades of deposition of mine waste have also affected the banks and floodplains of the lower Coeur d'Alene River (USEPA 2002). Past timber harvest activities have contributed to erosion and sedimentation of streams, principally from the construction of

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landings and roads and in areas of concentrated equipment use (e.g., improperly located skid trails for crawler tractors and/or rubber-tired skidders).

Compaction

Soil compaction occurs in response to pressure exerted by machinery or animals. The risk for soil compaction is greatest when soils are wet. Compacted soil usually allows less water to infiltrate, resulting in greater overland flow of water for longer periods of time. The overland flow has greater energy to detach and transport soil particles, resulting in increased soil erosion. Soil compaction has the potential to affect the long-term productivity of a site by reducing the diameter and height growth of a stand of trees by six to 25 percent over the long term. Soil texture affects the potential for soil compaction. In general, finer-grained soils can withstand less soil compaction before rooting restrictions occur (NRCS 1996).

Locations within the planning area where heavy machinery has worked in the past display some soil compaction. These areas include log landing sites and permanent and temporary roads from timber sales and transmission and distribution system work. Related research suggests that soil compaction from heavy machinery can cause long-term effects (Froehlich and McNabb 1979; Wert and Thomas 1981).

Overall, field observations suggest that current management practices have reduced erosion within the CdA FO since the 1981 MFP. These practices include improved road design, effective stream buffers, treatment of surface disturbance, and rehabilitation of mined areas. Mining practices that led to the current condition have changed over time, causing fewer impacts to soils.

3.2.4 Water Resources

Surface Water

Regional Context

The CdA FO is in the Columbia River Basin. The watersheds in the northeast corner of the CdA FO are the Upper and Lower Kootenai and the Moyie watersheds, all of which drain via the Kootenai River northward to Kootenay Lake in British Columbia. Kootenay Lake drains to the Columbia River, which flows south into Washington.

The central part of the CdA FO, including the Lower Clark Fork, Pend Oreille Lake, Priest, and Pend Oreille watersheds, drains to the Pend Oreille River, which flows north through Washington and makes an abrupt turn into British Columbia before joining the Columbia River near the town of Boundary, Washington.

Most of the southern half of the planning area, including the watersheds of Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River, drain to the Spokane River, which flows into the south end of Franklin Roosevelt Lake.

The southern portion of the planning area drains to the Snake River, including a small portion of the watershed of the Palouse River, and the northern portions of watersheds of the Upper and Lower North Fork of the Clearwater River.

Table 3-1 shows the distribution of BLM lands within the fourth field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) "cataloging units" or "watersheds" of the planning area. More than two-thirds of the BLM lands in the planning area are concentrated in three of these watersheds, including the South Fork Coeur d'Alene, Coeur d'Alene Lake, and St. Joe watersheds, where most of the historical mining activity in the planning area has been concentrated. A block representing about 10 percent of the BLM lands in the planning area is in the watershed of the Lower North Fork of the Clearwater River. The remaining BLM lands are scattered mainly over the watersheds of the Pend Oreille River and the Kootenai River.

Table 3-1 Fourth HUC Watersheds in the Planning Area

Watershed Name	HUC Number	Total Watershed Area (Square Miles) ¹	Watershed Area Within CdA FO (Square Miles)	BLM Land in HUC (acres)
Pend Oreille River				
Lower Clark Fork	17010213	2,343.3	223.2	666.9
Pend Oreille Lake	17010214	1,215.9	1,161.5	10,251.3
Priest	17010215	965.5	761.2	297.2
Pend Oreille	17010216	1,055.3	17.7	200.51
Kootenai River				
Upper Kootenai	17010101	2,278.3	71.7	0.0
Lower Kootenai	17010104	874.3	828.1	5,165.7
Moyie	17010105	211.2	175.2	5.6
Spokane River				
Upper Coeur d'Alene	17010301	899.8	892.0	3,220.2
South Fork Coeur d'Alene	17010302	297.5	297.5	36,555.3
Coeur d'Alene Lake	17010303	645.1	635.6	12,312.8
St. Joe	17010304	1,848.7	358.6	16,613.1
Upper Spokane	17010305	583.6	261.2	199.7
Hangman	17010306	706.2	21.9	0.0
Palouse River				
Rock	17060109	960.0	3.6	0.0
Snake River				
Upper North Fork Clearwater	17060307	1,298.0	70.6	0.0
Lower North Fork Clearwater	17060308	1,157.2	318.6	10,756.1
Totals:		17,339.9	7,906.3	96,244.4

¹Watershed area from Montana State University 2005

As illustrated in Table 3-1, political boundaries do not necessarily follow watershed boundaries. Only a few of the fourth level HUC watersheds in the planning area are entirely within Idaho, and two of them, the watersheds of the Upper and Lower North Fork of the Clearwater River, are split between the CdA and the Cottonwood BLM field offices. Similar overlapping watershed jurisdictions exist at the county level and between government agencies.

In most of the upper Columbia River Basin, stream flow is dominated by runoff from snow melt. The snowpack accumulates from late fall through spring, and the snow melt begins in spring, which typically results in an early summer surge in runoff that is sustained into mid-summer. Stream water temperatures tend to be cool throughout the year, and water quality is generally considered excellent. Headwater streams are relatively steep and are controlled by bedrock and glacially derived sediments (Forest Service 1995a).

The US Forest Service (USFS) manages most of the federal lands in northern Idaho. BLM lands generally lie either on the margins of the large national forests or in some cases are entirely enclosed within national forests. The BLM lands tend to be the forested lands and nearer the valley floors or lands where the principal historical use has been for mineral extraction. This proximity to the forests has resulted in a relatively high degree of coordination between BLM and the USFS and of parallel development of management approaches. One example of this relationship is BLM's reliance on the USFS's Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) as informal guidance on water quality objectives and management criteria in the planning area.

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In addition, the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) was a major regional planning effort that involved coordination between many federal and state agencies. The ICBEMP is an attempt to formulate a coordinated approach to the management of the vast watershed of the Columbia Basin in order to protect the incalculably valuable habitat and the water resources contained within it. Due to the relatively small proportion of the watershed within the planning area that is under management by the CdA FO, the influence of the CdA FO on outcomes in the Columbia River Basin overall is likely to be incremental, and to maximize that influence, the CdA FO takes a strategic approach.

This strategic approach has led the CdA FO to focus its efforts on projects that have the greatest potential to achieve beneficial impacts consistent with regional objectives or to provide leadership by initiating small-scale projects to demonstrate techniques that may eventually be applied elsewhere at a larger scale. Among these are the restoration of stream function, riparian habitat, and surface water and groundwater quality along selected stream reaches in the Pine Creek and other watersheds that have been affected by historical mining activities. These watersheds are in the Silver Valley Mining District, which is an area of relatively concentrated BLM land ownership. These efforts are strategic also because the area lies within or adjacent to the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site, which is being addressed by the US EPA.

Operable Unit 3 (OU3) of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site includes areas of mining-related contamination outside of the 21-square-mile "Box." The principal contaminants in this area are dissolved metals in surface water (particularly zinc and cadmium), lead in sediments, and particulate lead suspended in surface water (US EPA 2002). The EPA's remediation priorities in this area are to protect human health by reducing exposure through removing or capping contaminated soils and sediments, by providing safe drinking water, and by conducting public education campaigns and to protect the environment by reducing or removing sources of contamination, by stabilizing stream banks, and by treating surface water. Among the goals of the remedy for OU3 are restoring fish habitat and native fish populations, reducing toxic lead concentrations in sediments to which waterfowl are exposed, and reducing downstream migration of suspended lead-contaminated sediments.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires that states identify portions of surface water bodies in which the existing water quality does not support the designated beneficial uses for the water body. Lakes and streams in which the water quality consistently does not meet these criteria are identified as impaired. Impaired stream segments must then be studied to identify the sources of contamination and to develop quantitative total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that represent the amount of a pollutant that can enter the stream segment without reducing the designated beneficial uses.

Updated 303(d) lists are issued every two years. The 1998 303(d) list is the most recent list approved by the US EPA. Table 3-2 is a summary list of those impaired water quality segments that may have relevance to BLM management decisions due to their location relative to BLM lands. (The segments listed in the table are those judged most likely to be relevant to BLM land management decisions. Other segments that are not listed could also be relevant.) Table 3-2 also lists the completed TMDLs and the schedule for TMDLs under development.

Table 3-2 Impaired Water Bodies Near BLM Land in the Planning Area

Watershed Name	HUC Number	Water Body Name	Impaired Segment	Source of Impairment ⁽¹⁾	Date of TMDL
Lower Clark Fork	17010213	Clark Fork	Montana Line to Pend Oreille Lake	Sediment (metals)	2004
		Lightning Creek	Headwaters to mouth	Sediment (flow, habitat alteration)	2004
Pend Oreille Lake	17010214	Pend Oreille River	Pend Oreille Lake to HUC boundary	Sediment (flow, thermal modification)	2007
			Hoodoo Lake to Pend Oreille River	Sediment (thermal modification)	2007
		Cocolalla Creek	Cocolalla Lake to Pend Oreille River	Sediment (thermal modification)	2007
		Cocolalla Creek	Headwaters to Cocolalla Lake	Sediment (thermal modification)	2007
		Fish Creek	Headwaters to Cocolalla Creek	Sediment (pathogens, thermal modification)	2007
		Schweitzer Creek	Headwaters to Sand Creek	Sediment	2006
Pend Oreille	17010216	Pend Oreille River	Pack River	Sediment (nutrients, D.O., habitat alteration, pathogens, pesticides)	2007
			Hwy. 95 to Pend Oreille Lake	Sediment (flow, thermal modification)	2007
Lower Kootenai	17010104	Deep Creek	HUC boundary to McArthur Lake to Kootenai River	Sediment	2004
		Caribou Creek	Headwaters to Snow Creek	Sediment	2004
Moyie	17010105	Moyie River	Moyie Falls Dam to Kootenai River	Sediment	2005
Upper Coeur d'Alene	17010301	Prichard Creek	Barton Gulch to N. Fork CdA River	Sediment (nutrients, D.O., habitat alteration, pathogens, thermal modification, oil/grease)	2007
South Fork Coeur d'Alene	17010302	S. Fork Coeur d'Alene River	Six segments, from Canyon Creek to Pine Creek	Sediment	2001
		Pine Creek	E. Fork Pine Creek to S. Fork CdA River	Sediment	2001
		E. Fork Pine Creek	Two segments, headwaters to Pine Creek	Sediment	2001
		Ninemile Creek	Headwaters to S. Fork CdA River	Sediment	2001
		Canyon Creek	Gorge Gulch to S. Fork CdA River	Sediment	2001
		Moon Creek	Headwaters to S. Fork CdA River	Sediment	2001

Table 3-2 Impaired Water Bodies Near BLM Land in the Planning Area

Watershed Name	HUC Number	Water Body Name	Impaired Segment	Source of Impairment ⁽¹⁾	Date of TMDL
Coeur d'Alene Lake	17010303	E. Fork Ninemile Creek	Headwaters to Ninemile Creek	Sediment	2001
		Milo Creek	Headwaters to mouth	Sediment	2001
		Coeur d'Alene River	S. Fork CdA River to French Gulch	Metals, sediment	
		Baldy Creek	Headwaters to Latour Creek	Temperature	2007
		Larch Creek	Headwaters to Latour Creek	Temperature	2007
St. Joe	17010304	Saint Maries River	Mashburn (town) to St. Joe River	Sediment (nutrients, habitat alterations)	2002
		Saint Maries River	Clarkia to Mashburn (town)	Sediment, temperature	2002
		Gold Center Creek	Headwaters to St. Maries River	Temperature	Reevaluate, no date
		Big Creek	Confluence Middle and West Forks Big Creek	Not listed	Reevaluate, no date
		Marble Creek	Hobo Creek to St. Joe River	Sediment	Reevaluate, no date
		Harvey Creek	Headwaters to St. Joe River	Sediment (D.O., bacteria, temperature)	2002
		Gramps Creek	Headwaters to Gold Center Creek	Temperature (sediment)	2002
		Bear Creek	Headwaters to Marble Creek	Sediment (bacteria, temperature)	2002
		Little Bear Creek	Headwaters to Big Bear Creek	Sediment (bacteria, temperature)	2002
Upper Spokane	17010305	Spokane River	CdA Lake to Huetter	Metals	2007
		Spokane River	Post Falls Bridge to WA border	Metals	2007
Lower North Fork Clearwater	17060308	Floodwood Creek	Headwaters to Breakfast Creek	Sediment (D.O., flow, habitat alteration)	2004

Source: IDEQ 2003

Notes: (1) Pollutants requiring further study or for which TMDL development is not planned are in parentheses.

Groundwater

Most of northern Idaho is in the Northern Rocky Mountain Intermontane Basins Regional Aquifer System. This region extends eastward into Montana and northward into British Columbia. It is bordered on the west by the Columbia River Regional Aquifer System and on the south by the Snake River Plain Regional Aquifer System (Whitehead 1994).

Most of the Northern Rocky Mountain Intermontane Basins Regional Aquifer System consists of small isolated aquifers in pre-Miocene rocks. The geologic materials that compose these aquifers vary widely and include igneous and metamorphic rocks, volcanic rocks, and consolidated marine and nonmarine sedimentary rocks, with a wide range of thicknesses and permeabilities. Water from wells completed in these aquifers is used mostly for domestic and livestock watering supplies.

The principal aquifers in the northern portion of the CdA FO, north of Lake Coeur d'Alene, are in unconsolidated alluvial deposits filling the major alluvial valleys formed in the pre-Miocene rocks. These aquifers are found in the drainage of the Kootenai River and its tributaries, the Priest River and tributaries of Priest Lake, and on the Rathdrum Prairie. These unconsolidated-deposit aquifers provide fresh water for most public, domestic, commercial, and industrial purposes (Whitehead 1994). In Boundary and Bonner Counties, the unconsolidated deposits are chiefly fine grained, or, if coarse grained, they contain a matrix of clay. Most wells in Boundary County range from 10 to 200 feet deep and yield relatively small amounts of water. In southern Bonner and Kootenai Counties, the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer extends from the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille to the Idaho-Washington border, north of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The aquifer consists of coarse sand and gravel deposits that are locally more than 510 feet thick. Some wells yield as much as 3,000 gallons per minute. The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is extremely important for recharging the Spokane Valley Aquifer in northeastern Washington.

West of Lake Coeur d'Alene the Spokane Valley Aquifer represents the extension of the Rathdrum Aquifer onto the margin of the Columbia Plateau. Like the Rathdrum Aquifer, the Spokane Valley Aquifer consists of coarse glacial outwash deposits with high permeabilities. Public water supply wells in the Spokane Valley have yielded up to 19,000 gallons per minute (Whitehead 1994). Water quality in the Rathdrum Aquifer is highly vulnerable to surface pollution sources, because the groundwater is near the surface and there is no aquitard overlying the aquifer. Surface water and groundwater are interconnected, and increased extraction from the aquifer could affect stream flows. Although there are local contaminant sources, the aquifer generally has not been affected by pollutants. The state and the Panhandle Health Department manage the aquifer (Ralston 2000).

The Miocene basalts of the Columbia Plateau Regional Aquifer System extend into the northwest corner and most of the south half of Benewah County. Several isolated Miocene basalt aquifers are present in Bonner and Kootenai Counties. Wells in the basalt aquifers in Benewah County are typically small public supply or domestic wells drilled to depths of 50 to 200 feet, with yields ranging from 1 to 500 gallons per minute (Whitehead 1994).

In general, there are ample supplies of good quality groundwater in the planning area. However, there is little reliance on groundwater because surface water is also generally abundant and the demand for water is relatively low. The BLM's role has generally been to manage watersheds for the protection of both surface water and groundwater resources.

In the Coeur d'Alene River subbasin, the shallow alluvial aquifers that underlie the larger streams are threatened by heavy metal contaminants from historic mining activities in the Silver Valley (Bunker Hill) Mining District. Surface water contaminated by contact with tailings piles and drainage from mines can contaminate the shallow groundwater. The primary pollutants of concern are zinc, cadmium, and lead. In many areas, particularly in the tributary canyons above the major trunk streams, groundwater discharges to streams through the sediments at the margins of steep canyons or along valley floors. In some areas, large volumes of mill or mine tailings have been deposited on valley floors in or adjacent to streams, allowing the shallow groundwater to leach metals from the waste materials (US EPA 2001). Most studies and remediation efforts to date have focused on removing or stabilizing contaminated soils, sediments, and tailings piles, on reducing the transport of contaminated sediments, and on addressing surface water quality.

Canyon Creek is an example of one of the largest contributors of zinc and cadmium in the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. As in other tributary canyons to the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, the shallow aquifer consists of a permeable coarse alluvial aquifer, and there is a high degree of interconnection between

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surface water and groundwater. It has been estimated that Canyon Creek has contributed about 150 pounds of zinc per day during low flow conditions. The state initiated a groundwater monitoring study of Canyon Creek in 2003, involving installation of a network of wells to evaluate groundwater quality and flow. A final report for the study is expected late in 2005 (IDEQ 2004).

The BLM has conducted pilot studies of in situ groundwater interception and treatment systems at abandoned mine sites in the Canyon Creek and Ninemile Creek watersheds and has removed or stabilized mine tailings deposits from the floodplain of Pine Creek and has stabilized tailings piles at mine sites near streams. These efforts, combined with similar efforts by other entities, including the US EPA and the State of Idaho, should gradually help to reduce loadings of metals to surface water.

3.2.5 Vegetative Communities

Vegetation Types

The ICBEMP Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Forest Service and BLM 2000) identified 15 broad-scale potential vegetation groups for the Interior Columbia Basin, which includes most of the State of Idaho. A potential vegetation group consists of the vegetation types that grow in similar general moisture or temperature environments. Twelve of these groups occur within the planning area and are listed in Table 3-3.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests that are adjacent to BLM-administered lands in the planning area have developed a method of describing vegetation by Vegetation Response Units (VRUs), defined as aggregations of land having similar capabilities and potential for management (Forest Service 2003). VRUs have similar patterns in potential natural communities, soils, hydrologic function, landform and topography, geology, climate, air quality, and natural processes (nutrient and biomass cycling, succession, productivity, and fire regimes). VRUs provide a means to describe and define the components of ecosystems. The structure and function of the component types that make up the ecosystem are an indication of the relative health of ecosystems. Table 3-3 lists the three VRU groups for forested vegetation present in the planning area.

Table 3-3 Major Vegetation Cover Types on BLM-Managed Lands in the Planning Area

CdA FO Vegetation Cover Type	ICBEMP Potential Vegetation Group	USDA Forest Service Vegetation Response Unit (VRU) Group	Gap Analysis Cover Type	BLM Acres (Percent)
Dry Conifer (representative species-- ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, western white pine)	Dry Forest	Warm/Dry	ponderosa pine, grand fir, Douglas-fir, mixed xeric, Douglas-fir/lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir/grand fir	29,450 (30%)
Wet/Cold Conifer (representative species-- whitebark pine, western white pine, lodgepole pine, mountain hemlock, Engelmann spruce, western larch, subalpine fir, grand fir, Douglas-fir)	Cold Forest	Cool/Moist	Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, western larch, mixed whitebark pine, mixed subalpine, mixed mesic, western larch/lodgepole pine, western larch/Douglas-fir	44,672 (46%)

Table 3-3 Major Vegetation Cover Types on BLM-Managed Lands in the Planning Area

CdA FO Vegetation Cover Type	ICBEMP Potential Vegetation Group	USDA Forest Service Vegetation Response Unit (VRU) Group	Gap Analysis Cover Type	BLM Acres (Percent)
Wet/Warm Conifer (representative species-- western red cedar, western hemlock)	Moist Forest	Moist	western red cedar, western hemlock, western red cedar/grand fir, western red cedar/western hemlock	8,384 (9%)
Aspen/Aspen Conifer Mix	Cold Forest Riparian Woodland		mixed conifer/broadleaf forest	2,002 (2%)
Mid-Elevation Shrub	Cool Shrub		mesic shrublands	5,384 (6%)
Perennial Grass	Dry Grass		foothills grasslands, montane parklands, and subalpine meadows	2,451 (3%)
Riparian/Wetland	Riparian Herb Riparian Shrub Riparian Woodland		cottonwood, conifer riparian, broadleaf riparian, mixed conifer/broadleaf riparian, mixed forest/non-forest riparian, grass/forb riparian, shrub riparian, mixed non-forest riparian	1,147 (1%)
Other	Agriculture Urban Rock Water		urban, agriculture, rock, barren land, water	3,326 (3%)

In order to estimate existing acreages by cover type at the planning area level, the BLM correlated the ICBEMP potential vegetation groups and USFS VRUs with vegetation mapping data analyzed by the Idaho Gap Analysis Program of the US Geological Survey (Scott et al. 2002). Gap Analysis is a scientific method used by local, state, and federal land managers in identifying the degree to which native animal species and natural communities are represented in the present-day mix of lands. Using satellite imagery, the Idaho Gap Analysis Program mapped existing natural vegetation (land cover) to the level of dominant or co-dominant plant species. Thirty-eight cover types were mapped in the planning area.

Based upon an assessment of the vegetation cover classifications used by ICBEMP, local National Forests, and the Idaho Gap Analysis Program, seven overall groups of vegetation cover types and one "other" category were derived for the planning area. Table 3-3 displays the correlation of the ICBEMP and Forest Service vegetation groups with the Idaho Gap data, and the resulting acreage including percent by cover type on BLM-managed lands in the planning area.

Vegetation - Forest and Woodlands

Approximately 88 percent of the lands managed by the CdA FO are forested. Indicators in assessing the trend of declining health in the various forest vegetation cover types are the current versus the historic distribution of seral stages across the landscape. Forest health interpretations are based on observations by BLM foresters, as well as from forest inventory data collected in the 1974, 1992, and 2002 extensive forest inventories. Across all forest types, wildfire suppression has resulted in an increasing representation of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and grand fir (*Abies grandis*). Current observed levels of tree mortality and insect and

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disease (particularly root disease), stocking levels (stand density), and species composition reflect poor conditions when compared with historic composition and structure. Table 3-4 shows the change in characteristics of forests relevant to forest products in the planning area between 1974 and 1992.

Table 3-4 Forest Health and Fuel Indicators in 1974 and 1992

Indicator	1974 Inventory	1992 Inventory	Percent Increase
Number of live trees per acre 5 inches DBH* or less	860	1,341	56
Average diameter at breast height of trees greater than 5 inches DBH	10	11	10
Suppressed live trees per acre	32	107	234
Live white pine blister trees per acre	3	55	1,733
Insect-infected and diseased trees per acre	1	105	10,400
Mortality Trees/Acre	25	75	200

*DBH= Diameter at Breast Height, a standard forestry measurement.

**MBF= Millions of Board Feet (One Board Foot is the volume of a piece of wood 1 foot square and 1 inch deep)

USFS Insect/Disease aerial surveys on BLM ownership have also shown that approximately 1,500 acres of forested land are newly infested with insects on a yearly basis (based on a 5 year average of aerial flight detection from 2000-2004). Most common among these insects are bark beetles including western pine beetle, mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, and fir engraver beetle. White pine blister rust is also common in the 5 year survey, and Douglas fir beetle infested the most acres. Root disease is also prevalent. This includes armillaria root disease, annosus root rot, laminated root rot, and schweinitzii root rot. Through the use of aerial photos, USFS research conducted in 1993 concluded that root disease impacts were found on more than 35% of USFS land in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. BLM inventory data collected in 2003 on approximately 35,000 acres of BLM lands mostly within the Coeur d'Alene River Basin revealed that approximately 39% of the inventory plots had root rot disease noted. BLM estimates that most of the insect activity has occurred and will continue to occur in areas which are infected with root rot disease. As a result of available data, combined with BLM forestry personnel knowledge, BLM estimates that approximately 20,000 acres in areas where vegetation treatments are allowed are currently infested with insects and impacted by root rot disease.

Ecosystem characteristics include three basic components: structure, composition, and function. Composition is the tree, shrub, grass, and forb class components in a stand or community and can be measured by numbers and abundances of the same classes. Structure is the horizontal and vertical physical elements of forests and the spatial interrelationships of ecosystems. Function includes energy flows of materials across and within the landscape and how one ecosystem influences another (Forest Service 2003). Function also relates to energy processes such as fire, hydrological processes (including floods), and matter and energy exchange throughout the food chain.

For this analysis, tree species, determined by cover type, is the primary indicator of the composition of a forest ecosystem. Structure is measured by tree diameter class, canopy cover, and the number of canopy layers. Function is indicated by historical conditions. Ecosystems are more resilient (function properly) when their composition and structure reflect historic conditions.

Structure is expressed by seral stage. The seral stage indicates the progression of overstory development after a disturbance (such as fire). In forested vegetation types, the structure can take between 100 and 300 years to

develop from early seral through late seral stages. Tree diameter class and canopy cover are indicators of seral stage and thus, structure. Table 3-5 displays the historic structural components for the seral stages in each of the three major forest vegetation cover types.

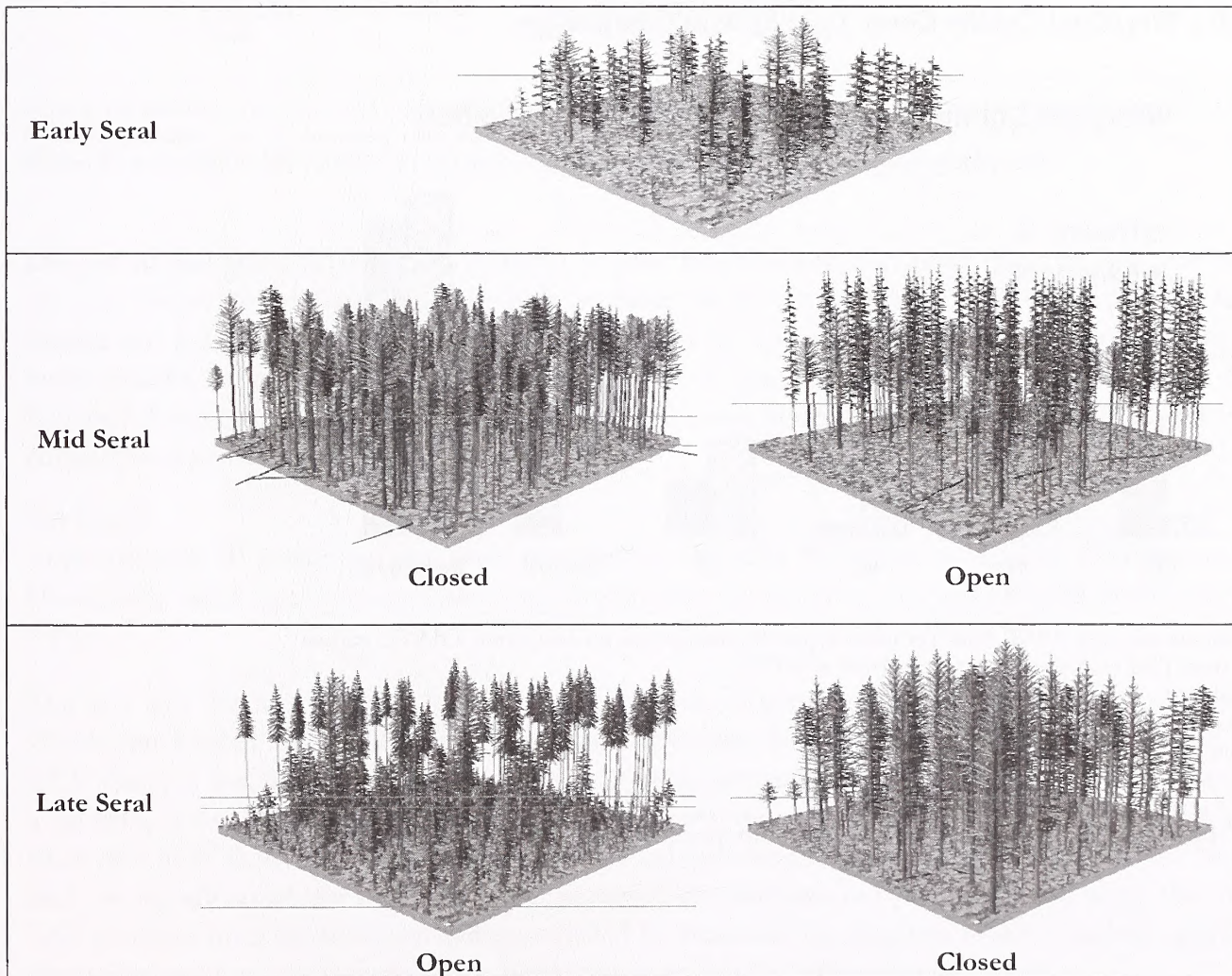
Table 3-5 Historic Seral Stage Descriptions

Cover Type	Component	Early Seral	Mid-Seral Closed	Mid-Seral Open	Late Seral Open	Late Seral Closed
Dry Conifer	DBH (in)	<6	6 to 20	6 to 20	>20	>20
	Canopy	<10% closed	1-2 layer >35%	1 layer <35%	1-3 layer <35%	multi-layer >35%
Wet/Cold Conifer	DBH (in)	< 4	4 to 20	4 to 20	>20	>20
	Canopy	<10%	1-2 layer >35%	1 layer <35%	1-3 layer <35%	multi-layer >35%
Wet/Warm Conifer	DBH (in)	<4	4 to 10	4 to 10	> 10	>10
	Canopy		>40%	<40%	<40%	>40%

Source: Interagency Fire Regime Condition Class Guidebook 2005. Data are rounded to 2-inch diameter class to coincide with Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) categories.

Figure 3-1 depicts what these seral stages would look like in the dry conifer cover type.

Figure 3-1 Dry Conifer Seral Stages



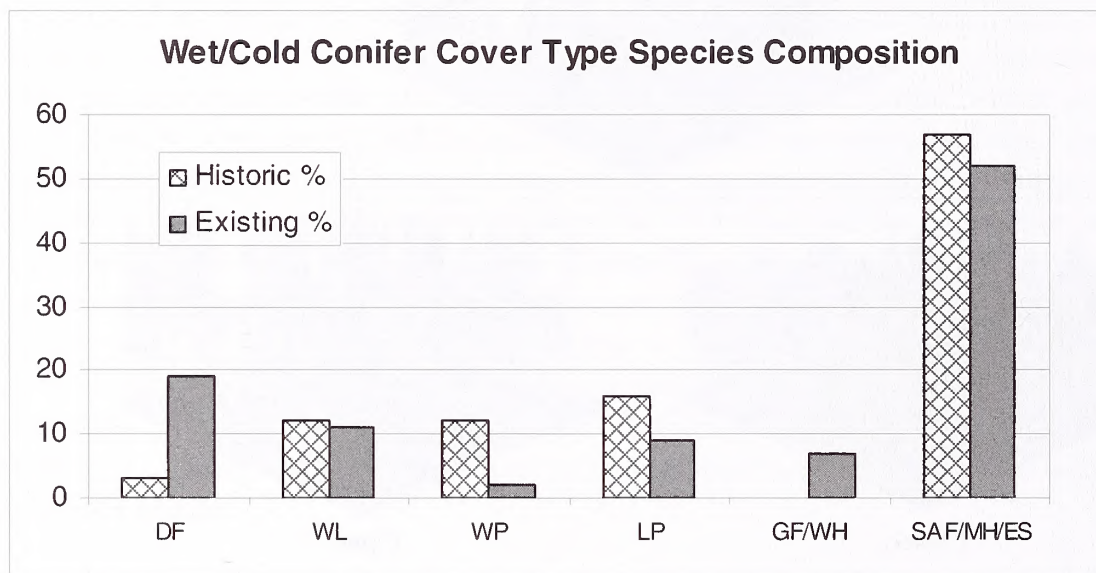
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Wet/Cold Conifer

The Wet/Cold Conifer type, which comprises approximately 46 percent of the lands managed by the CdA FO, is in poor forest health due to loss of western white pine (*Pinus monticola*). The amount of WWP that historically existed in this cover type has dropped from approximately 12% to 2% - 4% and is continuing to decrease. Historically, before the introduction of blister rust and wildfire suppression, stocking levels of Douglas-fir and grand fir were much lower than exist today. Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) occur incidentally in this cover type, composing less than 1 percent in both historic and current conditions. Douglas-fir and grand fir are replacing the western white pine as this species dies out. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) is a common component of these types. Most of the lodgepole pine occurs as a result of the 1910 fires and is consequently dying from insects (mountain pine beetle) and old age. Its decline is reflected in the reduced presence compared to historic levels.

Historic structural stage distribution compared to current conditions indicates serious problems with structure. In the Wet/Cold Conifer type, late seral is overrepresented (95 percent compared to the historic level of 30 percent), and the mid-seral stage, which historically accounted for 50 percent of the cover type, is missing completely (Figures 3-2 and 3-3). Similarly, open canopies historically represented 25 percent of this type, and none are present today.

Figure 3-2 Wet/Cold Conifer Cover Type Species Composition



Source: Historic data from IPNF AMS Technical Report (Forest Service, no date given). CdA FO current situation from 1992 extensive inventory, analyzed with FVS.

DF=Douglas-fir

WL= western larch

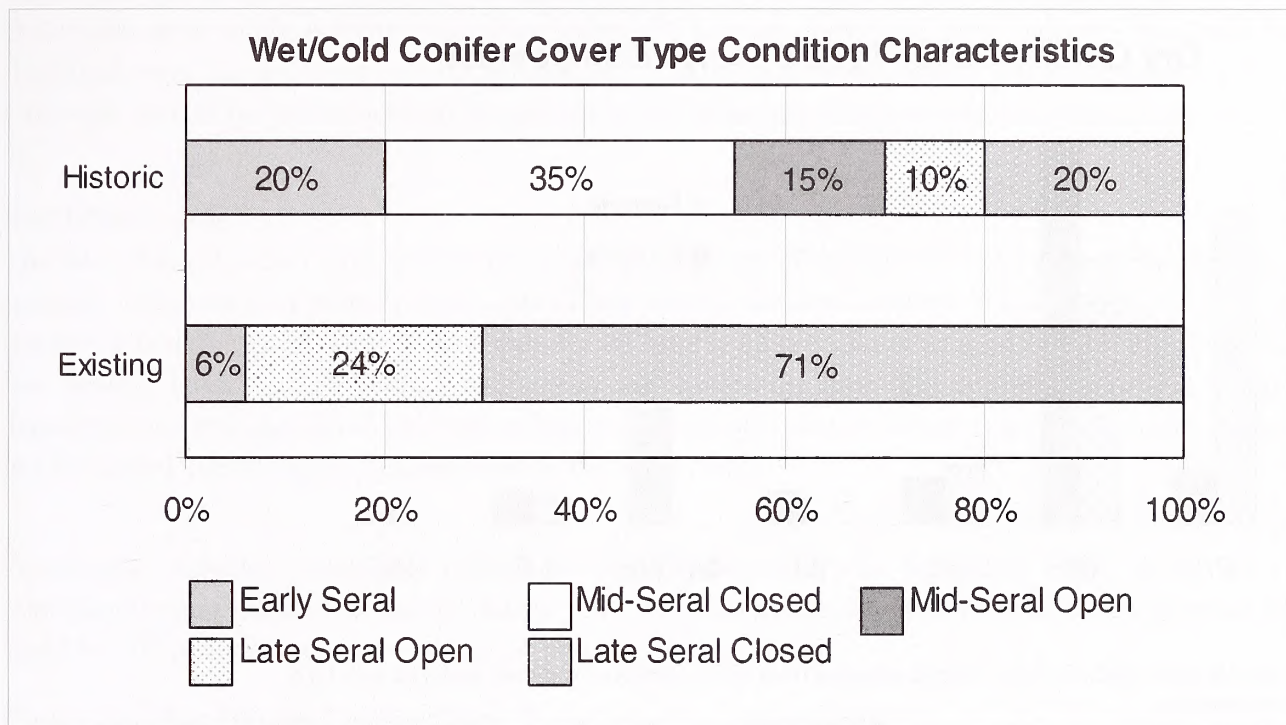
WP = white pine

LP = lodgepole pine

GF/WH = grand fir/western hemlock

SAF/MH/ES = subalpine fir/mountain hemlock/englemann spruce

Figure 3-3 Wet/Cold Conifer Cover Type Condition Characteristics



Source: Historic data from the FRCC Reference Condition Characteristics for Forested Biophysical Settings, Western U.S. (DRAFT: 01/11/05), available on the internet at www.frcc.gov. Wet/Cold Conifer Cover Type is equivalent to Interior West Lower Subalpine Forest #1 in the FRCC table. BLM CdA FO data are from the 1992 extensive inventory analyzed by FVS.

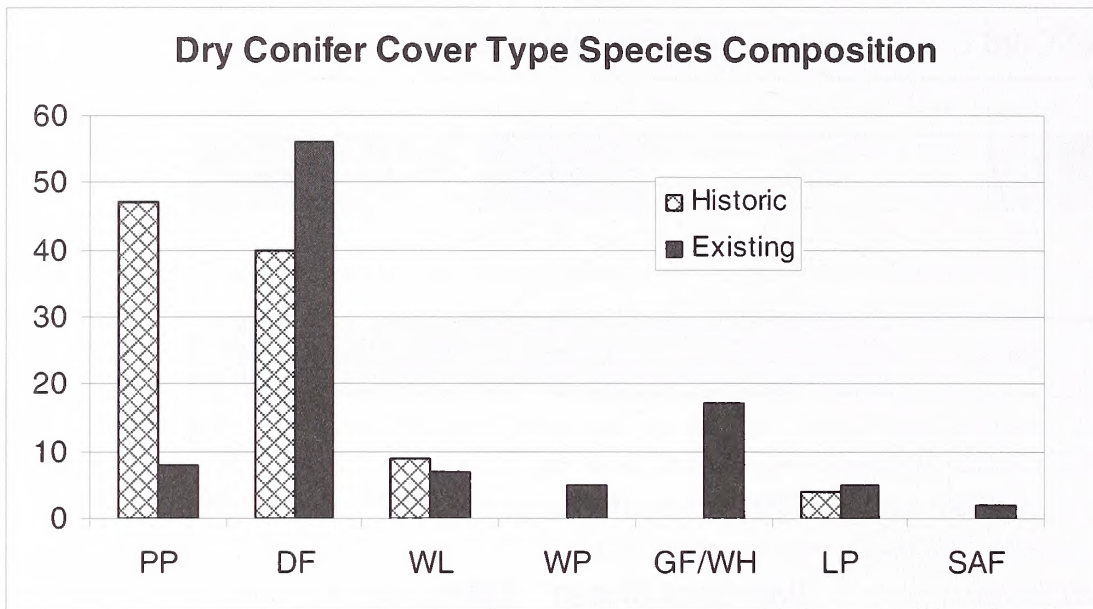
Douglas-fir and grand fir stands are generally in poor health due to high stand densities, infection with root rot, and insects. Natural western white pine continues to be removed from these stands due to blister rust disease and is being replaced by Douglas-fir and grand fir, which are more prone to root rot diseases and insect attacks, especially as stocking densities of these species increase above their historical densities. Reduced density of western white pine continues the trend of reducing the range of this species, which is currently at 5 percent of its historic range.

Dry Conifer

Approximately 30 percent of the lands managed by the CdA FO occur in the Dry Conifer cover types. Historically, these types contained about equal amounts of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir (Figures 3-4 and 3-5).

This is a type that can produce “open, park-like” stands of ponderosa pine when fire plays its natural role (Smith and Fischer 1997). The Forest Vegetation Inventory System (FORVIS) inventory contract (Section 3.3.1, Forestry and Woodland Products), currently being completed, is expected to show continued increases in stocking levels as well as increases in diseased trees and mortality trees. USFS data and observations from BLM field staff show that this increase has continued into the present within the planning area. Not shown here are the effects of the 1997 ice storm, the significant increases in Douglas-fir bark beetle that started in 1997 (initiated from the ice storm and exacerbated by increased tree densities, root rot, and drought), and the increasing population of mountain pine beetle now infecting the lodgepole pine stands.

Figure 3-4 Dry Conifer Cover Type Species Composition



Source: Forest Service 2003. CdA FO current situation from 1992 extensive inventory, analyzed with FVS.

PP = ponderosa pine

DF=Douglas-fir

WL= western larch

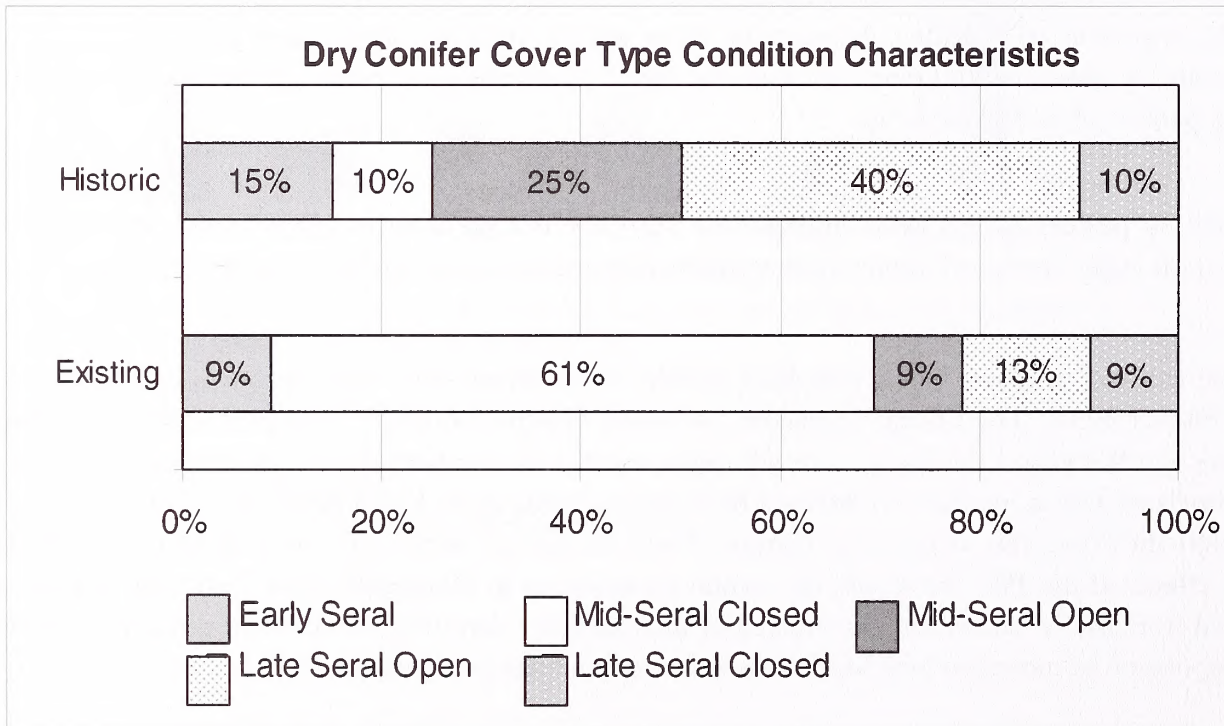
WP = white pine

GF/WH = grand fir/western hemlock

LP = lodgepole pine

SAF = subalpine fir

Figure 3-5 Dry Conifer Cover Type Condition Characteristics



Source: Historic data from the FRCC Reference Condition Characteristics for Forested Biophysical Settings, Western U.S. (DRAFT: 01/11/05), available on the internet at www.frcc.gov. Dry Conifer is equivalent to Ponderosa Pine-Douglas-fir (Inland NW) in the FRCC table. BLM CdA FO data are from the 1992 extensive inventory analyzed by FVS.

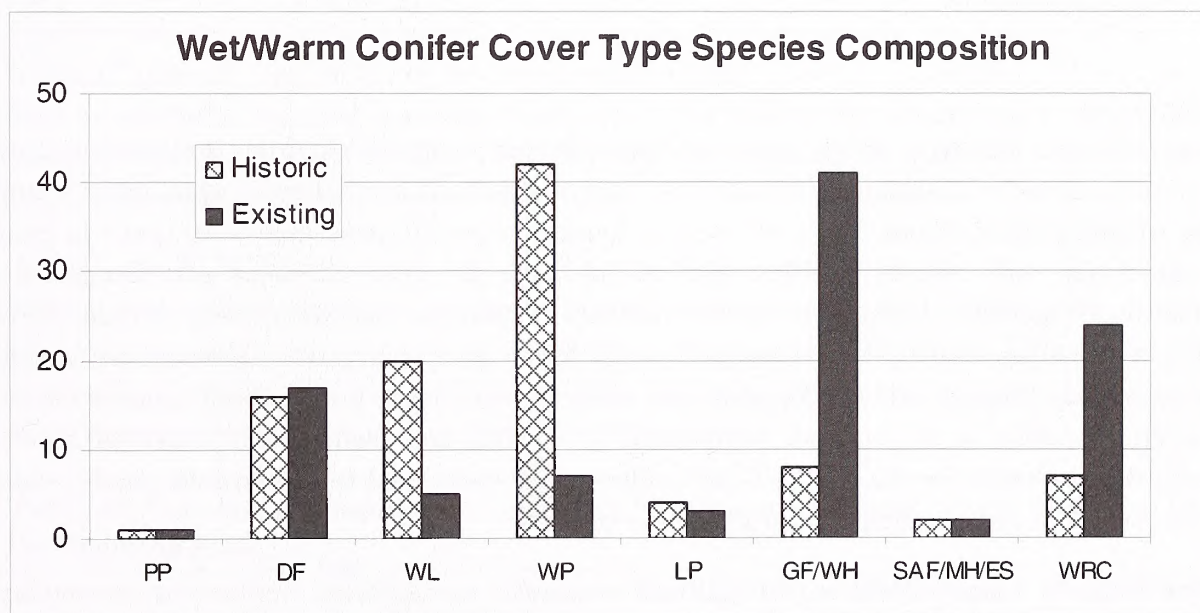
Existing seral stages in Dry Conifer are skewed toward closed canopy and mid-seral stages at the expense of late-seral stages (Figure 3-4). Compared against historical conditions, 20 percent of this cover type should be closed canopies, while current conditions reflect 70 percent, indicating very high tree densities. Mid-seral should account for approximately 35 percent, yet current conditions indicate that it accounts for 70 percent. Late seral should be represented on 50 percent of the acres but currently only occupies 22 percent (Figure 3-5).

Wet/Warm Conifer

The Wet/Warm Conifer type, which comprises nine percent of the upland forest sites in the planning area, is generally dominated by western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), and grand fir (Figures 3-6 and 3-7). Historically, this type would have been dominated by seral species, including white pine and western larch (*Larix occidentalis*). Currently this cover type is in fair to poor health due to high stand densities, root rot, and significant loss of western white pine due to blister rust. Additionally western larch has decreased due to logging (Forest Service 1997 and 2003).

Structurally, existing conditions reflect an overabundance of the mid-seral stage, while late seral is underrepresented. Late seral should account for 55 percent but is only reflected at 25 percent. Mid-seral should be 35 percent and is currently at 65 percent.

Figure 3-6 Wet/Warm Conifer Cover Type Species Composition



Source: Forest Service 2003. CdA FO current situation from 1992 extensive inventory, analyzed with FVS.

PP = ponderosa pine

DF=Douglas-fir

WL= western larch

WP = white pine

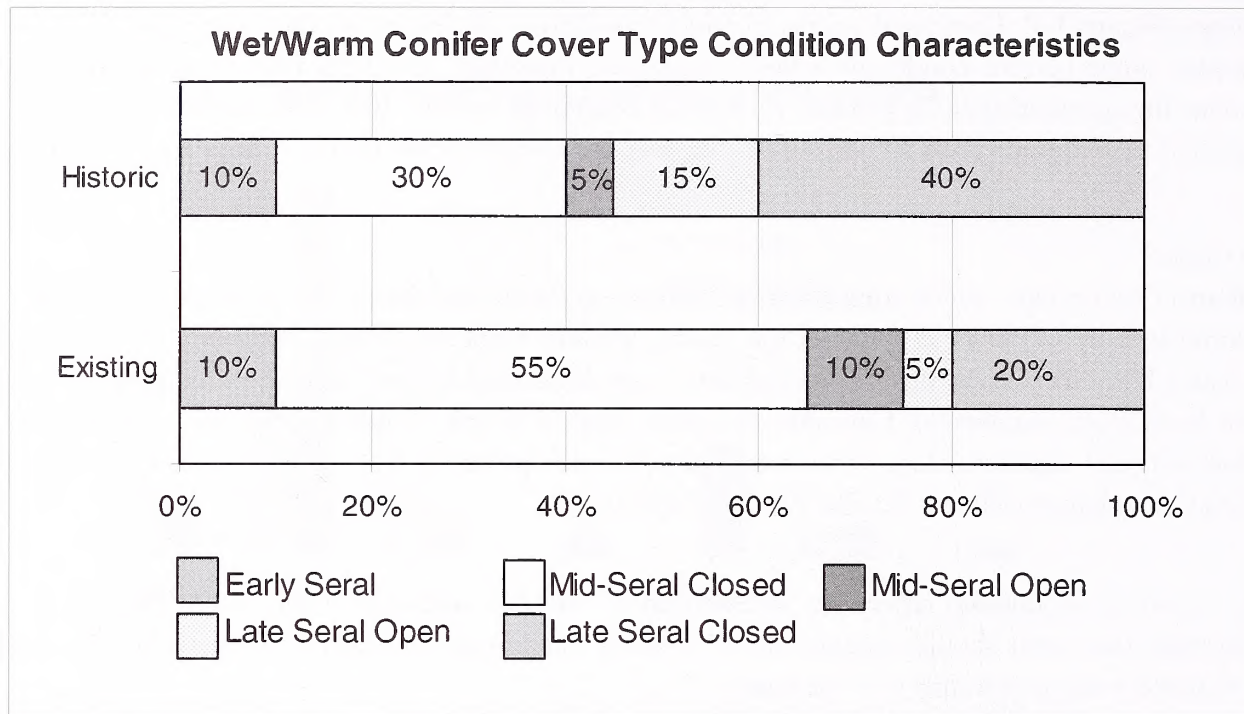
LP = lodgepole pine

GF/WH = grand fir/western hemlock

SAF/MH/ES = subalpine fir/mountain hemlock/Engleman spruce

WRC = western red cedar

Figure 3-7 Wet/Warm Conifer Cover Type Condition Characteristics



Source: frcc.gov

Wet/Warm Conifer Type is equivalent to Cedar-Hemlock Douglas-fir (Interior) in the FRCC table. BLM CdA FO data are from the 1992 extensive inventory analyzed by FVS.

Aspen/Aspen Conifer Mix

The Aspen/Aspen Conifer Mix type, which comprises approximately two percent of the lands managed by the CdA FO, is found between 2,200 and 6,000 feet on a variety of soils. It grows best in deep, moist loamy soils in a range of precipitation zones (16 to 40 inches). Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) occur in pure stands or in association with various conifers such as subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Douglas-fir. Associated understory vegetation consists of mallow ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), sticky currant (*Ribes viscosissimum*), Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), elk sedge (*Carex geyeri*), pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). In many aspen stands, conifer encroachment is a natural pattern, resulting in an increased dominance by conifers and reducing the extent of aspen-dominated stands. Forest health for the Aspen/Conifer Mix type is considered to be generally good to fair, with some mature stands of aspen undergoing succession to conifers.

Decisions in the Emerald Empire MFP regarding forest vegetation management emphasized commodity (wood products) production. However, national and BLM policy regarding management of forest vegetation on federal lands has changed. Much of the current management of forest vegetation within the planning area is guided by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2004 (HFRA) and the ICBEMP Strategy (Forest Service and BLM 2003). The HFRA emphasizes retention of larger trees and removal of smaller diameter (ingrowth) trees to promote healthy, more fire-resistant forests. The ICBEMP Strategy identifies a management strategy for promoting and sustaining a healthy regionwide ecosystem, while supporting economic and social needs, and helping to restore and maintain habitats of plant and animal species. Guidance is also included under the NFP for management of forest vegetation to restore damaged landscapes (tree planting, watershed restoration, etc.) and to reduce fire risk by addressing fuel ladders and downed material through thinning and prescribed fire.

Vegetation – Nonforested

Nonforested vegetation constitutes a small portion of the planning area and is mainly composed of foothills grasslands, montane parklands and subalpine meadows, and mid-elevation shrublands.

Mid-Elevation Shrub vegetation occurs on approximately six percent of the lands managed by the CdA FO. While this cover type is often found on south- and west-facing slopes that have experienced large fires, factors such as soil type and other disturbances may influence the distribution of this vegetation across the landscape as well. Generally, this type of vegetation is found at or below 4,000 feet and is primarily composed of species such as alder (*Alnus* spp.), mallow ninebark, oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), snowberry, ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.), and Rocky Mountain maple. Some management efforts have occurred in these shrub habitats with the goal of enhancing wildlife forage.

The Perennial Grass type occurs on approximately three percent of lands managed by the CdA FO. This cover type primarily consists of foothills grasslands, montane parklands, and subalpine meadows, with minor amounts of Palouse prairie limited to small areas in the southwestern part of the planning area. Dominant species in this vegetation type include bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), and green fescue (*Festuca viridula*).

The greatest threat to these nonforested communities is from invasion by noxious weeds and other exotic species (see the discussion on Noxious Weeds, below).

Riparian Zones and Wetlands

Riparian and wetland areas occupy transition zones between aquatic and upland habitats, with the term “riparian” generally applied to the vegetated zones adjacent to rivers and streams. These areas are important from an ecological standpoint as they supply cover for wildlife that access aquatic environments and are a source of food for fish and wildlife. They also influence water quality by filtering out nutrients from runoff, maintaining water temperature by providing shade, and controlling erosion.

In 1991, the BLM Director approved the *Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990s*. This initiative established national goals and objectives for managing riparian-wetland resources on public lands. One of the principal goals was to restore and maintain riparian-wetland areas so that 75 percent or more would be in proper functioning condition (PFC) by 1997 (BLM 1993). PFC inventories have been completed on about 76 percent of the riparian/wetland resources in the CdA FO (Table 3-6).

Table 3-6 Functional Condition Summary for Flowing and Standing Water Managed by the BLM in the Planning Area

Type	PFC	Functional at Risk	Nonfunctional	Unknown	Total
Flowing Water (miles)	126	12	5	94	237
Standing Water (acres)	141	333	0	254	728

The CdA FO manages 237 linear miles of streams, including 108 miles of intermittent streams and 129 miles of perennial streams (Flowing Water, Table 3-6). The BLM has assessed functioning condition of approximately 58 percent (143 miles) of these. Of those assessed, about 86 percent (126 miles) are in PFC, nine percent (12 miles) are functional-at-risk, and four percent (5 miles) are nonfunctional. Of the streams (riparian corridors) identified as functional-at-risk, fewer than five percent (<1 mile) are improving, fewer than 10 percent (1 mile) are declining, and no trend is discernable for the remainder.

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The CdA FO also manages 263 acres of lakes and 465 acres of wetlands (Standing Water, Table 3-6). The BLM has assessed the functioning condition of approximately 65 percent (474 acres) of these. Of those assessed, 30 percent (141 acres) are in PFC and 70 percent (333 acres) are in functional-at-risk. The PFC for approximately 254 acres has not been determined.

Six main types of riparian and wetland vegetation, based upon the US Fish and Wildlife Service's wetland classification system, occur within the planning area: forested, scrub-shrub, emergent, aquatic bed and lacustrine littoral, moss-lichen, and peatland (Bursik and Moseley 1995; Jankovsky-Jones 1997; Jankovsky-Jones 1999).

Forested Vegetation

Broad-leaved deciduous forests occur along major rivers such as the Kootenai, Clark Fork, parts of the Coeur d'Alene, St. Joe, and St. Maries. These forests are most commonly dominated by black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), with occasional stands of quaking aspen. Black cottonwood and quaking aspen are also associated with higher gradient streams or seeps. Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) may be present along lake shorelines. Conifer riparian forests occur on upper reaches and tributaries of major rivers and on the perimeter of emergent wetlands. Western redcedar, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce (*Picea englemannii*), and less commonly grand fir dominate conifer riparian forests. Western hemlock may be co-dominant with western redcedar on wet floodplains. On high gradient streams, riparian vegetation may be absent or poorly developed due to minimal floodplain development.

Scrub-Shrub Vegetation

Shrublands dominated by willows (*Salix* spp.), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and other shrubs occur along low-gradient channels, as stringers or on narrow floodplains along high gradient streams, as patches within riparian forests, and on margins of meadows and peatlands. At mid to upper elevations, willow-dominated shrublands are associated with low gradient meandering channels. Willows are frequently absent or a minor component of shrublands associated with high gradient streams, where thinleaf alder, red-osier dogwood, and alder buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*) occur as dominants. Patches of red-osier dogwood and willow are common in association with cottonwood forests on larger stream systems. Channel bars are often vegetated with willow. Thinleaf alder is also frequently present on meadow margins. Sitka alder (*Alnus sinuata*) is found at upper elevations on pond margins and along streams. Margins of many emergent wetlands commonly have a dense monoculture of hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*) or thinleaf alder around the perimeter.

Emergent (Herbaceous) Vegetation

Herbaceous wetlands are usually dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), spikerushes (*Eleocharis* spp.), and common cattail (*Typha latifolia*). Moist grasslands and seasonally flooded wetlands may be dominated by reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), redtop bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), or Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), with some tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), or sedge remnants. Thick layers of sedge and moss peat accumulate where water tables are at or near the surface for most of the year.

Aquatic Bed and Lacustrine Littoral Vegetation

Aquatic bed vegetation occurs in littoral (< 2 meters) and limnetic (> 2 meters) zones of ponds and lakes in the planning area. Vegetation types correspond to water depth to form somewhat concentric rings. Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.), water-milfoils (*Myriophyllum* spp.), and bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.) occur alone or in combination in shallow littoral zones. Yellow pond lily (*Nuphar polysepalum*) and water-shield

(*Brasenia schreberi*) are frequently present as monocultures in deep littoral zones. Pondweeds are common in limnetic zones.

Moss-Lichen Vegetation

Standing water moss-lichen wetlands are defined as areas where mosses or lichens cover surface substrates, and vascular plants make up less than 30 percent of the areal cover. Although moss-lichen vegetation and peatlands comprise a very small percentage of decision area vegetation, they are among the most floristically diverse of the six major vegetation types.

Peatlands

The forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent vegetation types discussed above may occur and moss-lichen types always occur as peatlands, where accumulation of organic matter exceeds decomposition. Peatlands in the planning area can be further divided into paludified forests, ombrotrophic bogs, poor fens, intermediate fens, and rich fens. A combination of plant species such as sedges, lichens, mosses, cattails, bluejoint reedgrass, tufted hairgrass, bog birch (*Betula glandulosa*), or willow species characterizes these habitats.

The CdA FO has placed a priority on restoration of degraded riparian areas, particularly those affected by mining activities. Management of riparian and wetland areas in the planning area is challenging due to intermingled and scattered land ownership patterns. The BLM has made considerable restoration efforts in the Pine Creek (Shoshone County) watershed, which have halted the degradation of plant communities along certain streams (see Section 3.1.3, Water Resources) and are some of the key features of the CdA FO resource management program. Other challenges in restoration of riparian zones occur because some watersheds are shared with other land management agencies that may have different management priorities.

Noxious Weeds

On public lands administered by the BLM and throughout northern Idaho, noxious weeds have invaded and now dominate many roadsides, disturbed areas, and susceptible habitats across the landscape. Invasive species on BLM-administered lands are most likely to be found in disturbed areas, such as forest roads, timber sale areas, and mine sites, though noxious weeds also are invading undisturbed areas, especially dry, open, ponderosa pine forest types.

Noxious weed species having the greatest effect on BLM land in the CdA FO area include spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia*), meadow hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*), and common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). These and other invasive species were historically introduced by livestock, grain production, contaminated hay, wildlife, waterways, and escaped ornamentals. New invasive species continue to be introduced and spread by vehicles, machinery, animals, and humans.

Noxious weed management is coordinated under a cooperative agreement through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), which designate weeds for eradication, containment, or management, based on the degree of infestation and the threat that they pose to native habitats. This cooperative agreement is between the USDA-Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF); BLM; Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Idaho Department of Lands (IDL); Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG); Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT); Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation; Kootenai Tribe; Nature Conservancy; Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah Counties; and four local soil conservation districts. Weed management in the CdA FO is based on integrated pest management principles using manual, mechanical, biological, and chemical treatment methods for controlling noxious weeds, as outlined in the *Record of Decision for the Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States* (BLM 1991). These principles place priority

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on strengthening the health of the overall plant community, thereby making it more weed resistant. The CdA FO is a member of two CWMAs, which create weed management plans for large geographical areas.

Inventories in the planning area have not been conducted repeatedly over time to show quantitative trends in weed species populations between data years. However, specific points in time that each weed species was not found in the planning area are known. Deductions can be made for the trend of each species depending on when it was first identified in the planning area compared to the extent of the current population as shown by recent inventory efforts and observations. These are very broad scale trends based on estimated dates of infestations and estimated current extent of individual weed species.

Many noxious weeds are expected to continue to expand concurrently with human disturbances as well as from natural factors such as drought and wildfires. New invaders are threatening to establish in the planning area, potentially compounding the problem. Progress is being made in control of certain widespread weeds with the use of insect biological controls on weeds such as purple loosestrife, Dalmatian toadflax, and spotted knapweed. The threat of the new invaders overshadows much of the progress that has been made. In too many instances, the control of one weed species leads to open space that can be quickly colonized by a different species of noxious weed. Integrated pest management programs are necessary to establish fully functioning stable ecosystems resistant to weed invasions.

Key features of the weeds-control program in the planning area are the presence of CWMAs, which have so far had the greatest impact on populations and outbreaks of weed species. CWMAs provide an efficient means of handling, controlling, and communicating about noxious weed management in the geographic area covered by the CWMA. The sharing of knowledge and resources will achieve better control of weeds, while improving working relationships with the partners and members of the public served by each.

3.2.6 Fish and Wildlife

BLM manages habitat, while fish and wildlife populations are administered by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) or the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Wildlife habitat management in the planning area consists of maintaining and improving food, water, and cover for over 100 species of mammals, 214 species of birds, 37 species of fish, 13 species of reptiles, and 11 species of amphibians. Data regarding the abundance and distribution of nongame species, fur-bearers, and predators are limited. Significant differences in habitat requirements exist between species, whereby good habitat conditions for one species may not meet adequate habitat conditions for another species. To maintain diverse, viable, and abundant populations of wildlife, a mosaic of biologically and structurally diverse habitat types is necessary. Habitats of terrestrial wildlife and special status species are shown in Map #4 in Volume III.

Riparian zones are regarded as the most important habitats for wildlife, providing water and highly variable structural diversity. Aspen stands provide nest sites for cavity-nesting birds, in addition to providing forage and thermal and hiding cover for many other species. Snag trees in aspen and conifer stands are essential to cavity-nesting nongame birds. Large, old, mature live trees provide a habitat component necessary to support many species of birds, bats, and other vertebrate and invertebrate species. These habitat features are found in variable amounts throughout the CdA FO.

Idaho conservation effort, habitat conservation assessment, and conservation strategies have been prepared and are being implemented for 13 BLM sensitive species. These species occupy a variety of the upland, riparian, and aquatic habitats previously described. The goals, objectives, and proposed actions of these

conservation agreements and strategies will be incorporated into the RMP by reference and are further discussed in the Section 3.2.7 of this document.

Fish

More than 11,000 miles of perennial streams cross all lands in northern Idaho. About 129 miles of these perennial streams cross BLM lands. There are also 263 acres of lakes and 465 acres of wetlands that provide potential habitat for 37 fish species (18 native and 18 nonnative [introduced] species) in the Kootenai, Pend Oreille, and Spokane Rivers (includes St. Joe, St. Maries, and Coeur d'Alene Rivers) (Table 3-7).

Table 3-7 Fish Species within the Planning Area ¹

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native or Nonnative	Probable Distribution
Arctic grayling	<i>Thymallus arcticus</i>	Nonnative	Kootenai and Spokane drainages
Black bullhead	<i>Ictalurus melas</i>	Nonnative	Lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in Spokane River drainage
Black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Nonnative	Lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in all drainages
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Nonnative	Lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in all drainages
Bridgelip sucker	<i>Catostomus columbianus</i>	Native	Spokane River drainage
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	Nonnative	All drainages
Brown bullhead	<i>I. nebulosus</i>	Nonnative	Lakes, ponds, and streams in all drainages
Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Nonnative	Pend Oreille and Spokane drainages
Channel catfish	<i>I. punctatus</i>	Nonnative	All drainages
Golden trout	<i>Oncorhynchus aguabonita</i>	Nonnative	Higher elevations in Kootenai and Spokane drainages
Kokanee salmon	<i>O. nerka-kinnerlyi</i>	Native	All drainages ²
Lake chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>	Native	Kootenai River
Lake trout	<i>S. namaycush</i>	Nonnative	Lake Pend Oreille
Lake whitefish	<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>	Nonnative	Lakes in Pend Oreille River drainage
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Nonnative	Lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in all drainages
Largescale sucker	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>	Native	All drainages
Longnose dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	Native	All drainages
Longnose sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	Native	All drainages
Mountain whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	Native	All drainages and lakes
Northern pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>	Nonnative	Chain lakes of the Coeur d'Alene River drainage, and throughout system; Lake Pend Oreille
Northern pikeminnow	<i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i>	Native	All drainages
Peamouth	<i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i>	Native	Tributaries below Shoshone Falls and the Coeur d'Alene, Pend Oreille, and Kootenai River systems
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Nonnative	Small lakes and ponds or in shallow weedy bays of larger lakes in all drainages
Pygmy whitefish	<i>Prosopium coulteri</i>	Native	All drainages
Rainbow trout	<i>O. mykiss</i>	Native	All drainages and lakes
Redside shiner	<i>Richardsonius balteatus</i>	Native	All drainages
Slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	Native	Kootenai and Pend Oreille drainages
Smallmouth bass	<i>M. dolomieu</i>	Nonnative	Lakes and some streams in Pend Oreille and Spokane drainages
Speckled dace	<i>R. osculus</i>	Native	Spokane River drainages
Tench	<i>Tinca tinca</i>	Nonnative	Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene systems and at least one farm pond in Latah County

Table 3-7 Fish Species within the Planning Area ¹

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native or Nonnative	Probable Distribution
Tiger muskie	<i>Esox lucius x. masquinongy</i>	Nonnative	Lakes throughout northern Idaho in all drainages
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	Nonnative	Lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in all drainages

¹Planning area includes the Spokane, Kootenai, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene river drainages. Special status species fish are listed in Table 3-8.

²Native in part of the state, but introduced into this drainage.

Source: IDFG 2001

Sculpin species, trout, and whitefish inhabit cold-water streams. Arctic grayling inhabit Crater Lake in the headwaters of Delaney Creek (Shoshone County). Such species as black crappie, largemouth bass, northern pike, and yellow perch inhabit warm-water bays and lakes, such as Cougar Bay (Lake Coeur d'Alene) and Gamlin Lake (Bonner County). Many introduced populations, such as brook trout, have replaced native populations of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

Priority habitat areas include riparian and aquatic habitats within the BLM's jurisdiction. These include designated Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs, where aquatic/riparian-dependent species receive management emphasis. RCAs include streams/rivers, ponds, lakes, springs, and wetlands. RCAs are buffers that change depending on the type of system and are in accordance with INFISH standards and guides.

Wildlife

The planning area is within the north-central portion of the interior Columbia Basin and includes the Northern Glaciated Mountains and Lower Clark Fork Ecological Reporting Units of ICBEMP. Most of the current wildlife habitat and population parameters within the ICBEMP assessment area can be found in the planning area, including changes in forest stand structure, increases in exotic vegetation, decreased biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, and changes in fire frequency and severity.

The complex of topography, vegetation, and climate occurring in the planning area provides diverse habitats for a variety of wildlife species. There are 332 species of wildlife known to occupy northern Idaho. The presence of any species may be seasonal or year-round based on individual species requirements.

Forested habitats largely dominate the landscape in the CdA FO and contain valuable riparian habitat. More species of wildlife inhabit riparian and wetland areas than any other habitat because of the proximity of food, water, and shelter. Approximately 165 animal species inhabit mostly riparian and wetland habitats during some period or season of the year. Twenty-two of these species are designated as special status and are described in Section 3.2.7, Special Status Species. The vegetative communities section (Section 3.2.5) provides additional vegetation and wildlife habitat information. The fragmented land ownership pattern in the CdA FO has made lands managed by the BLM of particular importance because these public lands provide wildlife with critical habitat niches and preferred habitats used by species for breeding, rearing young, foraging, travel between areas (connectivity corridors), and security (refuge) areas.

Of 53 selected wildlife species that use cavities in living, dying, and dead trees, nearly 50 percent are migratory birds and 28 percent are special status species. Sixty-eight percent require trees that are at least 12 inches in diameter at breast height. Many of these animals eat the insects that eat the trees. Many bat species roost in tree cavities and in crevices within tree bark. Bats, especially Townsend's big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*), also roost inside abandoned mine shafts. There are fewer bats in Silver Valley than in the rest of northern Idaho, possibly due to contaminated waters (Keller 2000).

Eleven medium to large carnivores are key species in wildlife communities. These are coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray wolf (*C. lupus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), lynx (*L. canadensis*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), fisher (*Martes pennati*), marten (*M. Americana*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), and grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*). These species are mostly far-ranging, elusive, shy, and inconspicuous; are found in low densities; and are active mainly at night. Because they ultimately depend on other populations (e.g., preferred prey species) and processes, carnivores are one gauge of the health of ecosystems. Carnivore interactions with prey populations create dynamics crucial to the balance of these ecosystems and their long-term sustainability. Also, forest carnivores are vulnerable to habitat alteration and exploitation, and they have a long and complex historical relationship with humans (Witmer et al. 1998, including original citations).

Big Game

Game animals, which are hunted on BLM lands, include elk (*Cervus elaphus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), mule deer (*O. blemionus*), moose (*Alces alces*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), and mountain lion (*Felis concolor*). The mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) is also present in the planning area, although not in significant numbers.

The IDFG has developed management objectives for big game animals and worked with various federal agencies in setting and achieving these objectives. The current *IDFG White-Tailed Deer, Mule Deer, and Elk Management Plan* (1999) includes species status and management objectives and is designed to be reviewed and updated regularly.

The CdA FO's resident big game animals typically move between spring/summer ranges and winter ranges annually. Important habitat (crucial habitat) is defined as being habitats essential to some aspect of the animal's life history. These are typically winter range, calving, or fawning grounds for elk and mule deer. Elk winter ranges are found throughout the CdA FO on mid- to low-elevation mountain shrub sites. Elk do not seem to have a fidelity to a particular winter range but may move among them from year to year (Ackerman et al. 1984).

Of the almost 1 million acres of elk winter range that occurs in the entire five-county region that contains CdA FO lands, 28,000 acres (3 percent) occur on BLM-managed lands (RMEF 1999). About 7,700 acres (28 percent) considered critical/crucial elk winter range occur on BLM land.

Close proximity to water remains an important factor within spring, summer, and fall habitats and is provided by both natural sources (streams, lakes, springs, seeps) and some artificial sources (stock watering ponds and tanks) in the CdA FO. Year-long or spring-summer-fall elk ranges are present throughout the region at higher elevations wherever forested habitat and topography provide good security from roads, motorized trail, and other human activities. Major summer habitats preferred by elk include aspen/conifer, mountain shrub, dry conifer, mid-elevation shrub, and riparian vegetation types. The location of and scattered nature of public lands means that the amount of elk summer habitat managed by the BLM is minimal.

Mule deer populations are presently considered low, with current management direction focused on improving existing numbers. Current efforts by IDFG include improving habitat through cooperation with land management agencies and private landowners. Preferred habitats are characterized by vegetation mosaics of aspen/conifer or tall brush hiding cover, mixed with grass foraging sites. Winter ranges are mid- to low-elevation shrub. Proximity to water is an important factor during spring, summer, and fall, which enhances deer dependency on riparian zones. Aspen stands provide an important required habitat component for fawning and fawn-rearing cover. Year-long or spring-summer-fall mule deer ranges are present throughout

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the region at higher elevations wherever forested habitat and topography provide good security from roads, motorized trails, and other human activities.

White-tailed deer in the CdA FO are predominantly associated with major riparian areas, such as the Kootenai and Coeur d'Alene Rivers. As Black (2004) indicated, white-tailed deer populations are rapidly expanding across their range, while mule deer populations have declined across the western US. White-tailed deer are displacing mule deer on several different ranges, including the eastern plains of Montana, Snake River plains in Idaho, Blackfoot Indian Reservation in Idaho, and in many places throughout Canada.

White-tailed deer and mule deer often occupy the same habitats, have almost identical food preferences, and have similar habitat preferences. However, white-tailed deer will out-compete mule deer for available resources, such as food and shelter, in most habitat types. The major difference between the two is that white-tailed deer tend to occupy their habitats year-round, where the mule deer migrate between summer and winter ranges. This allows mule deer to use higher elevation habitats that could not be occupied year-round.

Moose populations in the planning area are considered to be increasing, with management direction focused on improving or maintaining existing numbers. Generally, moose territories tend to be yearlong with elevational changes from winter to summer within the territory. Winter habitats are characterized by mid-elevation and mountain shrub species, such as serviceberry and willow. These species, interspersed with coniferous and deciduous trees, provide adequate winter forage and thermal cover requirements. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, moose use riparian habitat areas as well as the adjacent aspen and wet/cold conifer cover types, which provide calving, foraging, and thermal cover.

Habitat loss and fragmentation and unrestricted harvest have significantly changed the distribution and abundance of black bears in North America since colonial settlement. Although bears have been more carefully managed in the last 50 years and harvest levels are limited, threats from habitat alteration and fragmentation still exist. Black bear populations are difficult to inventory and monitor because the animals occur in relatively low densities and are secretive by nature. Black bears are an important game species in Idaho, but because bears have low reproductive rates, their populations recover more slowly from losses than do those of most other North American mammals (Vaughan and Pelton 1995).

Black bear distribution in Idaho corresponds closely to the distribution of coniferous forests. Vaughan and Pelton (1995) indicated that in Idaho the black bear population is somewhere between 20,000 and 25,000 animals, with a slightly decreasing population trend. In the CdA FO, most bear habitat is found in the higher elevations of the national forests, including the mountain shrub, dry and wet conifer, and aspen-conifer cover types.

The mountain lion is usually associated with remote rough topography and is generally a solitary animal. Its annual home range varies greatly in different areas. In Idaho, home ranges of males were from 36 to 152 square miles (mi²), while females had home ranges of 9 to 98 mi². However, home ranges of up to 969 mi² have been reported. Seasonal movements occurred within home range in response to prey movements; mountain lions moved farther in summer than in winter while hunting their prey, and some altitudinal movement was associated with ungulate movements and snows in winter. Natural enemies include large predators such as bears, other lions, and wolves.

The mountain lion relies heavily on mule deer, which may comprise up to 75 percent of their diet throughout the year. They also occasionally prey on livestock, primarily sheep and cattle. The mountain lion is managed as

a game species in Idaho. Generally, mountain lions will be found where there are healthy deer populations in the CdA FO.

Upland Game Birds and Small Game

The CdA FO contains habitat for many small game and upland game birds that are of interest to hunters and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Much of the habitat for these species is found in the transition areas from BLM land to Forest Service land or BLM land to private land, particularly agricultural lands.

The primary upland game species found on the public lands throughout the region are blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), and mourning dove. Mourning doves nest throughout the CdA FO in most habitat types. Preferred blue grouse and ruffed grouse habitat is closely associated with dry conifer, aspen, and riparian habitat types. Blue grouse winter in high-elevation timber, both on BLM-administered lands and adjacent National Forests, where they feed on needles of Douglas-fir and buds of both Douglas-fir and aspen. Riparian areas are important to forest grouse for brood rearing due to the presence of insects, preferred forbs, and berry-producing shrub species. Additionally, herbaceous cover is an important component of brood-rearing habitat, directly affecting areas of use and brood survival (Harju 1974; Zwickel 1972). Spruce grouse (*Falci pennis canadensis*), white-tailed ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*), ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), and gray (Hungarian) partridge (*Perdix perdix*) are also found in the planning area.

Wild turkeys occur in various locations of the CdA FO. Preferred habitats include riparian zones and adjacent woodland areas. Public lands along river corridors provided the most habitat requirements, especially roosting and escape cover. Populations apparently occur in suitable habitats, ranging in elevation up to the aspen and conifer habitats.

Cottontail rabbits are present in variable numbers throughout the region, inhabiting many of the low elevation shrub and riparian areas.

The snowshoe hare typically lives in forested areas and is not very common on public lands. In the summer it has a thin brown coat, which changes to a heavy white coat in winter. Hares feed on grasses, forbs, shrub shoots, tree bark, woody twigs, and tree buds from aspen, willow, and maple, which are found in aspen, conifer, and higher elevation riparian habitats. Many species prey on snowshoe hare, including coyotes, foxes, Canada lynx, bobcats, great horned owls, and larger hawks. In addition to the small game species previously mentioned, IDFG maintains a season for the American crow.

Other Animals

The categories below are defined by regulations published by IDFG.

- **Fur-bearers** include beaver, mink, muskrat, otter, and raccoon; these species depend on aquatic or riparian habitats. Bobcats tend to be found in various habitats in hilly or rugged country, often associated with extensive cliffs or rock outcrops. Red fox occupy the more extensive and varied upland habitat types. Badgers are found throughout the perennial grassland and low-elevation shrub habitats, where ground squirrels and other rodents are prevalent.
- **Predatory wildlife** are classified by IDFG as predators in Idaho and include coyotes, jackrabbits, skunks, weasels, and starlings, all of which are found in a variety of habitats in the planning area (Idaho State Code Chapter 2-Section 36-202). Coyotes occupy most habitat types throughout the region and are considered extremely opportunistic in prey selection.

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- **Unprotected Wildlife** are species the IDFG considers as unprotected wildlife, meaning that these species can be harvested at any time and in any number with a valid hunting license. These species include marmots, fox squirrels, porcupines, English sparrows, and feral pigeons.
- **Protected Nongame Wildlife** are nongame wildlife species found in the planning area that are protected by Idaho law; these species include red squirrels, wolverines, chipmunks, golden-mantled ground squirrels, rock squirrels, pikas, northern flying squirrels, migratory song birds, hawks, owls, eagles, and vultures. All native bats, reptiles, and amphibians are protected by Idaho Department of Fish & Game Commission Rule.

All Idaho bats feed on insects and use a wide variety of habitat for foraging and roosting, ranging from caves and cliffs to conifer trees. Some bats hibernate in Idaho during winter, whereas others migrate to warmer regions. Of the 14 species of bats found in Idaho, 11 species have been found in the planning area throughout most habitat types. Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis are considered sensitive by the BLM.

The raptors that spend all or part of the year in Idaho include 13 species of owls, one species of vulture, and 18 species of hawk-like birds, including falcons, eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers, and osprey (BLM 2004c). Many of the aforementioned species of raptors are found in various habitats in the planning area.

Migratory Birds

Migratory birds include a number of species that spend the winter in the southern latitudes and fly north to nest and fledge their young in the summer. Some migrate as far as from the Arctic Circle to the southern tip of South America. Others may only move from Idaho to Arizona. Migrants vary in size from hawks to waterfowl.

Many species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are found in the planning area. Most of these species are waterfowl and songbirds, but the list also includes species such as gulls, owls, and hawks.

Throughout the planning area, numerous species of waterfowl inhabit wetlands, riparian areas, and reservoirs. These areas provide nesting, brood rearing, and spring/fall migration habitat. Additionally, some important seasonal habitat for a variety of shorebird species is found in the mudflats around the major reservoirs. Some of the more important areas providing habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds include Spokane, Kootenai, and Coeur d'Alene River.

Songbirds are a group of birds that includes those most familiar to people, such as warblers and sparrows. Because this is such a large group, it is difficult to discuss details of the numerous lives and habitats involved.

All of these species depend on quality habitats containing adequate nesting substrate with sufficient cover to hide the female on the nest, diverse vegetation to supply insects during brood rearing, and seeds or fruits, for those that eat them, for the remainder of the year.

Crucial raptor nesting habitat in the planning area includes cliff-nesting sites used by golden eagles, prairie falcons, peregrine falcons, and red-tailed hawks. Wet/Cold and Dry Conifer types, aspen, and riparian areas (containing mature cottonwood trees) are used by forest hawks, including northern goshawks, Cooper's hawks, and sharp-shinned hawks, as well as many of the owl species and bald eagles. Artificial nest platforms and power poles near riparian areas provide nesting sites for osprey, although none are currently located on public land. Those species that BLM considers sensitive (goshawks and peregrine falcons) are further discussed in the special status species section of this document.

The Idaho Bird Conservation Plan describes the most important habitats, which were prioritized by looking at the number of birds that use a habitat as primary breeding habitat and by the numbers of high priority birds that use the habitats. Idaho Partners in Flight (IPIF) also considered the loss of habitat in quantity and quality, including the area of habitat within the state, management status, and whether that habitat area provides moderate to good protection from degradation. Based on these criteria, IPIF identified their priorities as riparian, nonriverine wetlands, and ponderosa pine.

Past impacts on riparian areas have resulted from channelization/diversion (mostly at lower elevations), fire suppression, livestock grazing, recreational development, agriculture, road location, and past mining. Additionally, the loss of beaver and the dam complexes they constructed has resulted in accelerated erosion, loss of water storage capacity, and wetland/meadow maintenance.

Reptiles

Eleven species of reptiles, including two turtles, five lizards, and four snakes, are found in various habitats in the planning area.

Two garter snakes occur throughout Idaho in many habitats, including wooded areas. However, they prefer moist habitats near riparian areas, lakes, or damp meadows. They feed on toads, frogs, fish, salamanders, small mammals, earthworms, slugs, leeches, and insects. While still seen, they don't seem to be as abundant as they have been in the past (Stebbins 2003).

Amphibians

Most amphibians have complex life cycles (adults, eggs, and larvae that metamorphose into juveniles) that require habitats with standing/still water for at least part of the year. Five salamander, one toad, and five frogs are found in the planning area. The boreal subspecies of the western toad and the northern leopard frog are sensitive species and are discussed in Section 3.2.6.

Trends

In general, with the settlement of northern Idaho during the past century there has been a downward trend in habitat health as wildlife has responded adversely (e.g., avoidance of areas and decrease in suitable habitat for feeding, breeding, and resting) to the following changes in vegetation:

- Early successional tree species replaced by late successional tree species;
- Larger older trees replaced by smaller younger trees (decreased cavity-nest niche);
- Multistory canopies replaced by single-story canopies (decreased complexity);
- Native species replaced by noxious weed species;
- Large stands of forest replaced by small stands of forest (increased habitat fragmentation); and
- Increased numbers and densities of roads (habitat fragmentation and disturbance from human activities).

Habitats for most species declined strongly from historical to current periods across large areas of the Columbia Basin (Wisdom et al. 2000). Severe declines have occurred for species that depend on low-elevation, old-forest habitats and those that depend on combinations of rangelands or early seral forests with late-seral forests.

Widespread, but less severe, declines have occurred for the following:

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- Species dependent on old-forest habitats;
- Species dependent on early seral forests; and
- Species dependent on native herbland, shrubland, and woodland habitats.

The primary causes for the decline in old-growth forest and early-seral habitats are intensive timber harvest and fire suppression. Additional causes for the decline in low-elevation, old-forest habitats are conversion of land to agriculture and to residential or urban development. Primary causes for decline in native herbland, shrubland, and woodland habitats are excessive livestock grazing, invasion of exotic plants, and conversion of land to agriculture and residential and urban development. Altered fire regimes also are responsible for the decline in native grassland and shrubland habitats (Wisdom et al. 2000). Noss et al. (1995) concurred with this conclusion when they reported 60 to 70 percent of the old-growth ponderosa pine forest in Idaho has been degraded from fire suppression and logging of superior trees in more accessible areas.

Among the 132 migratory land bird species that breed in the Interior Columbia River Basin, 38 species showed significant population trends over two periods: 1968 to 1994 (26 years) and 1984 to 1994 (10 years). Fourteen species had significant declines over the 26-year period and 13 over the 10-year period; 13 and 12 species showed significant increases over those same periods, respectively. More species were predicted to be more negatively affected by consumptive demand than any other theme (Saab and Rich 1997).

The historical harvest of large roost trees has influenced populations of bats that inhabit those trees, and it appears, although it has not been proven, that populations have been reduced with the loss of these trees.

Several carnivores in the western United States have declined dramatically in the last century and a half and are listed as threatened or endangered species or are considered sensitive by land management agencies, as described in Section 3.2.7 (Witmer et al. 1998, including original citations). Increasing development and use of roads, including both forest roads and highways, are primary factors affecting carnivores. Highways also act as significant barriers to movements for some species, although the impacts of roads and other barriers to animal movements are not well documented. Studies of wolves and grizzly bears suggest that reducing the number of roads in forest environments is important to maintaining normal habitat use patterns and to lowering human-caused mortality (Witmer et al. 1998).

Many habitats likely are underused by some species due to the effects of roads and associated factors; this may be especially true for species of carnivorous mammals, particularly gray wolf and grizzly bear (Wisdom et al. 2000).

Native wildlife populations are likely to continue at a rate similar to recent years, but less severe than historic times, unless specific and comprehensive measures are undertaken to restore habitat quality, quantity, and important migratory corridors. State and federal agencies are attempting to reverse the trends that threaten native biodiversity and abundance within the planning area. This includes recovery plans for threatened and endangered species, forest plans, and executive orders. However, it has not yet been determined whether these management actions will be sufficient to stave off this decline when countered by the predicted increase in population, development, recreational activities, and commodity extraction in the planning area.

Priority habitat areas that have been identified for restoration and protection include old-growth forest habitats, early seral forests, snags, riparian and wetland habitats, mines and caves supporting bats, and roadless areas. These habitats are critical to the integrity of the northern Idaho ecosystem and in supporting fish and wildlife species native to the planning area.

3.2.7 Special Status Species

Special Status Fish

The planning area is within the north-central portion of the interior Columbia Basin, and it includes the Northern Glaciated Mountains and the Lower Clark Fork Ecological Reporting Units of ICBEMP. Rivers and streams flowing through BLM lands in the CdA FO do not contain anadromous fish species. Five special status fish species have been identified within the planning area (Table 3-8).

Table 3-8 Special Status Fish Species in Northern Idaho

Status	Type	Common NAME	Scientific Name	Habitat
Federally endangered	1	White sturgeon (Kootenai River)	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	Kootenai River—large cool rivers or streams
Federally threatened	1	Bull trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Cold-water lakes, rivers, and streams; spawns in rivers and streams
Sensitive species	2	Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>	Kootenai River—cool waters of large rivers and lakes; spawns in shallow sandy bays or gravel shoals
Sensitive species	3	Westslope cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>	Cold-water lakes, rivers, and streams; spawns in rivers and streams
Watch list	5	Shorthead sculpin	<i>Cottus confusus</i>	Cold-water rivers and streams

Type:

- 1 Threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species
- 2 Rangewide/globally imperiled species
- 3 Regional/state imperiled species
- 4 Peripheral species
- 5 Watch list

Table 3-9 shows the amount of habitat available for sensitive fish species in northern Idaho. Priority habitat areas include aquatic and riparian habitats in stream and river segments containing sensitive fish populations. These habitats are critical to the integrity of the northern Idaho ecosystem and in supporting fish species native to the planning area.

Table 3-9 Available Sensitive Fish Species Habitat in Northern Idaho

Fish Species	Total Miles	BLM Miles	Percent BLM
Perennial streams	11,050	129	1.2
White sturgeon (Kootenai River)	217	0	0
Bull trout	1,732	11	0.7
Burbot (Kootenai River)	245	0	0
Westslope cutthroat trout	4,657	68	1.5
Sculpin species	849	19	2.2

Note: The BLM manages 3.84 acres of streambank on an inside corner of the Kootenai River.

The Kootenai River white sturgeon inhabits 217 miles of the Kootenai River. These fish have not successfully spawned in recent years. Changes in flows from Libby Dam are the biggest threat to this population. Land management activities are considered a secondary impact on populations of this species (Lee et al. 1997).

Bull trout are widely distributed across the interior Columbia River basin, although their estimated current range is about 60 percent of their historic range. This species is in widespread decline, and many local

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extirpations have occurred across their range. Watersheds that are currently predicted to be strong spawning and rearing areas represent six percent of the historic range. Migratory life histories have been lost or limited throughout the range (Lee et al. 1997). Bull trout currently inhabit about 11 miles of streams across BLM public lands, as compared to 1,732 miles across all of northern Idaho. Spawning and rearing habitat for these species is found in the Little North Fork Clearwater River, and migration corridors and juvenile rearing habitat occur in the Coeur d'Alene River and Coeur d'Alene Lake. Bull trout can also be found in both the Kootenai and St. Joe Rivers and some of their tributaries.

Burbot, also known as ling cod, has been petitioned for listing under the ESA. This species inhabits about 245 miles of the Kootenai River, and its population is very depressed from historic levels. Changes in hydrologic flows caused by Libby Dam are the biggest threat to this population.

Westslope cutthroat trout was petitioned for listing under the ESA, although the USFWS determined its listing to be "not warranted," a decision that is undergoing a court-ordered status review. Westslope cutthroat trout are still widely distributed, but remaining populations may be seriously compromised by habitat loss and genetic introgression (Lee et al. 1997). This subspecies is estimated to occur in 11 percent of its historic range in Idaho (Rieman and Apperson 1989). Most of the populations in northern Idaho are depressed. Migration barriers, such as dams and irrigation diversions, have isolated or eliminated habitat once available to migratory populations. Small and often isolated populations persist throughout the range, but the long-term outlook for many of these populations is poor. The core of strong populations is associated with the Central Idaho Mountains. The Upper Clark Fork regions are important but are more fragmented and restricted to a relatively smaller portion of the historical distribution (Lee et al. 1997). Westslope cutthroat trout inhabit about 68 miles of streams across BLM public lands, as compared to 4,657 miles across all of northern Idaho.

Shorthead sculpins live in similar waters as trout throughout the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers. This species prefers cool clear water in streams but can also be found in larger rivers (Simpson and Wallace 1982). Specific data on shorthead sculpins are limited, although sculpin species occupy 849 stream miles in northern Idaho, of which 19 cross BLM public lands.

Prior to human-caused disturbances, major changes in native biodiversity have resulted from shifts in climate and/or geology. However, human influences have substantially affected ecological processes and biodiversity and will likely continue. In general, water quality and riparian and fish habitats have experienced slight upward trends during the past decade. This is due to environmental cleanups, habitat improvements, and protection measures (such as INFISH) to preserve the species and the existing habitat.

Since 1979, the status of several species has changed; Kootenai River white sturgeon changed from BLM sensitive species to federally endangered, bull trout changed from unlisted to federally threatened, burbot and westslope cutthroat trout changed from unlisted to BLM sensitive species, and shorthead sculpin became a BLM watch list species (Table 3-10).

Table 3-10 Change of Special Status Species from MFP to RMP

Common Name	1979 Status	2004 Status
White sturgeon Kootenai River	Sensitive species	Federally endangered
Bull trout	None	Federally threatened
Burbot	None	Sensitive species
Westslope cutthroat trout	None	Sensitive species
Shorthead sculpin	None	Watch list

It is likely that general water quality and riparian and fish habitat will continue to experience slight improvements from continued implementation of protective measures. However, because the primary factor affecting white sturgeon and burbot in the Kootenai River is the operation of Libby Dam, the future trends of these species is uncertain.

Special Status Terrestrial Wildlife

Threatened and endangered terrestrial wildlife species include federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife occurring within the planning area (Table 3-11). Species are woodland caribou (endangered), bald eagle (threatened), Canada lynx (threatened), gray wolf (endangered north of I-90, experimental/nonessential south of I-90), and grizzly bear (threatened). Table 3-12 lists the acreages of habitat in the planning area and on BLM-managed lands. The yellow-billed cuckoo is a federal candidate species that could occur within the planning area. Twenty-eight BLM-designated sensitive terrestrial species occur within the planning area.

Woodland Caribou

The current population of woodland caribou is approximately 50 animals in two herds in northern Idaho, northeastern Washington, and southeastern British Columbia. Three augmentations of animals in northern Idaho with a total of 60 caribou from British Columbia were conducted from 1987 to 1990. An additional 43 caribou were released in the Recovery Zone during a second population augmentation effort from 1996 to 1998. Woodland caribou are generally found above 4,000 feet elevation in mature and old growth Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir and western red cedar/western hemlock forest types. The BLM manages 89 acres of caribou winter habitat within the Selkirk Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Table 3-12). Because caribou only winter in the planning area, only winter activities impact the species. The recovery objectives for woodland caribou are to maintain an increasing population and to secure and enhance at least 443,000 acres of habitat in the Selkirk Mountains (USFWS 1994).

Table 3-11 Federally Listed and Candidate Terrestrial Wildlife Species in the Planning Area

Common Name		Status
Woodland caribou	Endangered	Habitat loss and mountain lion predation have been the largest contributing factors for downward trend.
Canada lynx	Threatened	The lack of administrative protection measures for this species was the major contributing factor for listing.
Northern gray wolf	Endangered (north of I-90) Experimental/ Nonessential (south of I-90) (classification under the Endangered Species Act, meaning that the population is not considered essential to the survival of the species, but remains protected).	The USFWS was exploring options for delisting because wolf populations have increased beyond the recovery goals. Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming would take over management of this species within their boundaries when the USFWS approves each state's management plan. A US District Court decision in January 2005 struck down a previous downlisting of gray wolf from endangered to threatened.
Grizzly bear	Threatened	In 1999, the USFWS determined that the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak grizzly bear ecosystems should be combined,

Table 3-11 Federally Listed and Candidate Terrestrial Wildlife Species in the Planning Area

Common Name		Status
		and the grizzly bears in both warranted but were precluded from reclassification as an endangered species.
American bald eagle	Threatened	The USFWS proposed delisting this species in 1999 because its national population has increased beyond the recovery goals.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	Candidate for listing	One siting of a cuckoo in 2004.

Table 3-12 Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Acreages in Northern Idaho

Species	Total Area (Acres)	Area (Acres) on BLM Lands	Percentage on BLM Lands
Woodland caribou	290,397	89	0.03
Bald eagle		15.95 miles	
Canada lynx	156,725	49,331	31.5
Gray wolf	5,062,421	96,243	1.9
Grizzly bear	376,640	4,324	0.01
Yellow-billed cuckoo	16,395	111	0.7

The status of woodland caribou has changed from a BLM sensitive species in 1979, when the previous plan was written, to federally threatened at present. Losses of habitat and mountain lion predation have been the largest contributing factors for this downward trend.

Bald Eagle

In 1989, biologists monitored 11 active bald eagle nests producing 11 chicks in northern Idaho. In 2003, biologists monitored 49 active nests, producing 64 chicks in northern Idaho. One nest near Morton Slough and three nests along the Kootenai River are on BLM public lands. Also, biologists have conducted a mid-winter survey of bald eagles during the second week of January since 1980. In northern Idaho, the numbers have ranged from 84 to 389 eagles, with an average of 172 bald eagles. The wintering population around Wolf Lodge Bay has ranged from 10 birds in 1983 to 156 birds in 2004.

Returning to the same territory each year, bald eagles nest from March through July. They construct and reuse stick nests in trees that are near water. Trees must be large enough to support the heavy nest and provide open space between branches to accommodate a seven-foot wingspan. The adult pair will occasionally use alternate nest trees within the same territory. During the day, eagles will perch in different trees, both living and dead, which allow easy approach and departure by the large birds. Bald eagles eat mostly fish, but will also eat waterfowl and carrion. Bald eagles are normally intolerant to human disturbance during the breeding season.

Bald eagles migrate from Canada into northern Idaho during November. Some birds will continue moving south, while others will stay near open water through February. During the day, the eagles perch in large trees, both living and dead, which allow easy approach and departure by the large birds. At night, the eagles roost in communal sites away from the water that offer more protection from weather than daytime perches. Bald

eagles feed daily on post-spawned Kokanee salmon from early morning through the afternoon. Waterfowl provide alternate food when the supply of salmon diminishes.

The status of bald eagle has changed from federally endangered in 1979 to threatened at the present (Table 3-11). The USFWS proposed delisting this species in 1999 because its national population has increased beyond the recovery goals. This potential delisting has not yet occurred.

Canada Lynx

The USFWS concluded that a self-sustaining resident population of Canada lynx does not exist in Idaho, but individual animals are present. From 1901 to 1999, there have been 45 recorded sightings of Canada lynx in northern Idaho, 26 of which were made in the 1990s. The BLM manages 49,331 acres of lynx habitat (Table 3-12).

In northern Idaho, Canada lynx have been seen in forests composed of western red cedar and western hemlock at lower elevations and lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce at higher elevations. Secondary vegetation, when interspersed within subalpine forests, includes moist Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch, and aspen forests. Lynx require denning habitat during birthing and rearing of kittens until they are mobile. The common component appears to be large amounts of coarse woody debris, such as downed logs and root wads, which provides escape and thermal cover. Denning habitat may be found either in older mature forest of conifer or mixed conifer/deciduous types or in regenerating stands (more than 20 years since disturbance).

Lynx are specialized predators that hunt primarily snowshoe hares and secondarily red squirrels. Foraging habitat supports these animals. The best snowshoe hare habitats support a high density of young trees or shrubs (over 4,500 stems or branches per acre) that are tall enough to protrude above the snow. These conditions may occur either in early successional stands following disturbance or in older forests with a substantial amount of shrubs and young conifer trees. Coarse woody debris, especially in early successional stages (created by harvest regeneration units and large fires), provides important cover for snowshoe hares and other prey. Red squirrel densities tend to be highest in mature cone-bearing forests with substantial quantities of coarse woody debris.

Lynx habitat, currently in unsuitable condition, is in early successional stages as a result of recent fires or vegetation management, where the vegetation has not sufficiently developed to support snowshoe hare populations during all seasons. Management-created openings would likely include clear-cut and seed tree harvest units and might include shelterwood and commercially thinned stands, depending on unit size and remaining stand composition and structure. Unsuitable areas, such as lakes, low elevation ponderosa pine forests, and alpine tundra, do not support snowshoe hare populations and are not considered to be capable of providing lynx habitat.

The status of Canada lynx has changed from sensitive species in 1979 to federally threatened at present. The lack of administrative protection measures for this species was the major contributing factor for this change of legal status (Table 3-11). Recovery objectives have not been established for Canada lynx.

Gray Wolf

Gray wolves are currently designated endangered north of Interstate 90, and experimental/ nonessential south of Interstate 90 (Table 3-11). Gray wolf populations were extirpated from the western US by the 1930s. Wolves occasionally dispersed into Montana and Idaho from Canada but failed to survive long enough to reproduce. Subsequently, USFWS released 35 gray wolves into central Idaho in 1995 and 1996. By the end of 2002, nineteen wolf packs with 284 animals were in the central Idaho recovery area. The Marble Mountain

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wolf pack had at least six animals, produced three pups, and experienced two mortalities from unknown sources in 2002 (USFWS et al. 2004).

Transient wolves move throughout northern Idaho. Wolves inhabit large contiguous, coniferous forests that are relatively free of human disturbance. Deer, elk, and moose are primary prey species, and small mammals and grouse are alternate prey. Adult female wolves give birth from late March to late April inside dens excavated out of the earth. The wolf pack will depart the whelping den for a series of rendezvous sites during summer and early fall. Wolves will travel along or across roads and trails. Wolf packs range throughout their territories in search of deer, elk, and moose, especially during winter. Size of the pack can vary from one pair to an entire family group.

The gray wolf north of Interstate 90 was downlisted from federally endangered to threatened in 2003 (Table 3-11). The USFWS was recently exploring options for delisting the wolf because its populations have increased beyond the recovery goals. Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming would take over management of this species within their boundaries when the USFWS approves each state's management plans. A court decision in January 2005 struck down the 2003 rule that downlisted gray wolf from endangered to threatened, so that the current status of wolf has been returned to endangered north of I-90. The experimental nonessential population south of I-90 has not changed its status. The recovery goal for northern Rocky Mountain wolf is to secure and maintain a minimum of ten breeding pairs of wolves in each of the three recovery areas (northwest Montana, central Idaho, and the greater Yellowstone area) for a minimum of three successive years (USFWS 1987). All lands within the CdA FO could potentially support wolves (Table 3-11).

Grizzly Bear

Grizzly bears have been eliminated from approximately 98 percent of their historic range within the lower 48 states. Today, approximately 1,200 to 1,400 grizzly bears remain in five scattered populations in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming. Only the Yellowstone Ecosystem and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem have populations of several hundred grizzlies. Wakkinen and Kasworm (2002) estimated the populations to be 30 to 40 bears for the Cabinet-Yaak and 40 to 50 bears for the Selkirk Mountains recovery zones.

Grizzly bears are solitary animals except when breeding, caring for young, or congregating at abundant sources of food. They inhabit densely covered forests, especially for bedding sites, adjacent to open parks for feeding sites. Bears excavate dens on steep slopes at higher elevations where wind and topography allow an accumulation of deep snow. They hibernate from about November 15 through April 1 each year. After emerging from their dens, bears move to lower elevations seeking green plants and wintering ungulates. As summer progresses, bears move upslope as they follow maturing plants. Bears bulk up on berries and nuts during late summer and fall in preparation for their long winter sleep.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC 1998) recommended that core habitat consist of all lands at least 500 meters (0.31 mile) from any road (open or restricted), motorized trail, or high intensity use area. Core habitat may contain restricted roads, but such roads must be closed with devices, including but not limited to earthen berms or barriers, or naturally closed by vegetative growth. Wakkinen and Kasworm (1997) recommended that all bear management units (BMUs) have at least 55 percent core habitat. The Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee (1998) approved this recommendation for only Priority 1 BMUs and a "no net loss" of existing core habitat on federal ownership for all BMUs. The USFWS (2004) believes any reduction from 55 percent core habitat is likely to have adverse effects on grizzly bears.

Wakkinen and Kasworm (1997) concluded that open motorized route densities (OMRD) greater than one mile per square mile should not exceed 33 percent of the area of an individual BMU and that total motorized route densities (TMRD) greater than two miles per square mile should not exceed 26 percent of the area of an individual BMU. The USFWS (2004) believes any addition to these OMRD and TMRD standards are likely to have adverse effects on grizzly bears.

Effective grizzly bear habitat is defined as the amount of secure grizzly bear habitat (habitat at least one quarter mile from open roads, developments, and high levels of human activity) remaining within BMUs after affected areas are subtracted from the total habitat within the BMUs. Controlling the quantity of open and total roads within BMUs (i.e., access management) offers probably the strongest tool for providing effective grizzly bear habitat. The BLM manages more than 1,500 acres of grizzly bear habitat, primarily within the Selkirk Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Table 3-12).

The status of the grizzly bear has not changed from federally threatened in 1979 to the present time. In 1999, the USFWS determined that the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak grizzly bear ecosystems should be combined, and the grizzly bears in both were warranted but precluded from reclassification as an endangered species (Federal Register Vol. 58, No. 28, 1993, pp. 8250-8251).

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

The status of yellow-billed cuckoo has changed from no status in 1979 to a candidate for federal listing at the present (Table 3-11). Yellow-billed cuckoos inhabit large groves of cottonwood trees. The only observation of yellow-billed cuckoo in northern Idaho were “recorded by Merrill (1897) who reported one bird seen July 30, 1895, at Fort Sherman (Coeur d’Alene)” (Burleigh 1972), and a siting of a single cuckoo on the CdA golf course in 2004. The species probably no longer inhabits northern Idaho, although there about 111 acres of suitable cuckoo habitat on BLM-managed lands in the CdA FO (Table 3-12).

Trends

The overall trend for wildlife has been defined by the loss of greater amounts of habitat and their exposure to the growing amount of disturbance that has occurred since settlement of northern Idaho in the past century. Although eight wildlife species have been removed from the BLM Sensitive Species list since implementation of the 1981 MFP, 24 species have been added to the list. Three species were added to the Idaho list, and 20 species were added to the BLM watch list.

If the historic trend of habitat loss and disturbance does not slow down or reverse, then species currently listed as sensitive are likely to be listed as threatened or endangered. Wolverine and species that inhabit old-growth forests are the next likely candidates in northern Idaho for federal listing. The future for Canada lynx and grizzly bear would remain similar to current conditions or would worsen without additional action. Numbers of bald eagle and gray wolf would likely continue to show modest increases.

Key features identified for terrestrial wildlife in Section 3.2.6 apply to special status terrestrial wildlife as well, especially roadless mature forested areas and areas that could be returned to this condition, den sites for lynx and wolf, and bald eagle nests if found on BLM lands.

Special Status Plants

BLM special status plants are defined as those species currently listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as well as species that are proposed or candidates for listing (Table 3-13). It also includes species designated as sensitive by the BLM State Director. BLM sensitive species are protected, managed, and conserved in the same manner as federal candidate species. In Idaho, the BLM has defined and

Table 3-13 Special Status Plants Known from or with the Potential to Occur within the Planning Area

Common Name and Scientific Name	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status	# of Occurrences in Decision Area/Planning Area ¹
Deerfern (<i>Blechnum spicant</i>)	Moist forest and riparian areas in cedar/hemlock forest.	Watch	0/26
Slender moonwort (<i>Botrychium lineare</i>)	Grassy slopes, streamside edges, and forest stands.	Candidate	0/1 (historical)
Mingan moonwort (<i>B. minganense</i>)	Western red cedar, western hemlock, grand fir, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine forests, as well as brushfields.	Sensitive	2/45
Moonwort species (<i>Botrychium</i> spp.)	Found in a variety of habitats ranging from damp meadows and boggy areas to moist western hemlock and western red cedar forests.	Watch	1/104
Cascade reedgrass (<i>Calamagrostis tweedyi</i>)	Subalpine fir/beargrass habitat type; most often in mid-successional stands.	Sensitive	1/1
Constance's bittercress (<i>Cardamine constancei</i>)	Moist, partially to fully shaded sites within western red cedar and western hemlock forest types; also, drier brushy hillsides.	Sensitive	6/26
Bristly sedge (<i>Carex comosa</i>)	Shorelines, marshes, bogs, fens, and forested wetlands.	Sensitive	1/6
Henderson's sedge (<i>C. hendersonii</i>)	Western red cedar/hemlock and grand fir forests, often near streams or seeps, and on moist benches upslope from streams.	Watch	0/25
Bulb-bearing water hemlock (<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i>)	Marshes, bogs, wet meadows, and shallow standing water.	Sensitive	1/21
Short-spored jelly lichen (<i>Collema curtisporum</i>)	Moist riparian forests, usually on the bark of older black cottonwood trees.	Sensitive	0/25
Clustered lady's-slipper (<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>)	Moist western red cedar/hemlock and dry Douglas-fir/grand fir forests.	Watch	0/21
Swamp willow-weed (<i>Epilobium palustre</i>)	Marshes, bogs, and fens.	Watch	0/21
Chatterbox orchid (<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>)	Moist areas along streambank, lake margins, seeps, and springs.	Watch	0/1
Water howellia (<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>)	Small, vernal, freshwater pothole ponds or the quiet water of abandoned river oxbow sloughs.	Threatened	0/1 (historical)

Table 3-13 Special Status Plants Known from or with the Potential to Occur within the Planning Area

Common Name and Scientific Name	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status	# of Occurrences in Decision Area/Planning Area ¹
Large Canadian St. John's-wort (<i>Hypericum majus</i>)	Marshes, bogs, and wet meadows.	Sensitive	1/28
Bank monkeyflower (<i>Mimulus divicola</i>)	South aspects with slopes of 60 percent or greater on bare mineral soil. Most often in openings in ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, or, occasionally, grand fir forest dominated by a grass or shrub understory.	Watch	2/39
Hoary willow (<i>Salix candida</i>)	Bogs, fens, marshes, pond edges, and seepage areas.	Sensitive	1/5
Water clubrush (<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>)	Quiet, shallow water, and boggy margins of ponds, lakes, and sloughs.	Sensitive	1/21
Spalding's catchfly (<i>Silene spaldingii</i>)	In Idaho, occurs in communities supporting Idaho fescue.	Threatened	0/0
Purple meadow (<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>)	Moist areas along streambanks, lake margins, seeps, and springs.	Sensitive	1/5
Sierra woodfern (<i>Thelypteris nevadensis</i>)	Moist woods, streambanks.	Sensitive	1/1
Douglas clover (<i>Trifolium douglasii</i>)	Moist meadows and along streams within open ponderosa pine to Douglas-fir forests.	Sensitive	0/2
Idaho barren strawberry (<i>Waldsteinia idahoensis</i>)	Open, cool, moist forest sites, from toe to mid-slopes in the grand-fir, upper western red cedar, and subalpine fir zones.	Sensitive	0/1

¹One occurrence may not translate to one population; i.e., several occurrences may combine to form one population. Source: USFS 1995; Shelly and Gamon 1996; Lichthardt 2003; BLM 2003, 2004; Goodnow 2004; Hays 2004; Hill and Gray 2004; Idaho Conservation Data Center 2004; USFS 2004.

further clarified the management of special status plants by designating species as either BLM sensitive or watch list. There are two federally threatened species, water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), and Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*), as well as slender moonwort (*Botrychium lineare*), a candidate for federal listing, that have the potential to occur within the planning area. Thirteen BLM sensitive and seven watch list species occur within the planning area.

Invasion of native habitats by noxious weeds and other exotic species poses one of the greatest threats to native plant species and communities and is an increasing concern within the planning area.

Trends. Overall vegetative changes that have occurred across the planning area include the following (USFS 2003b):

3. Affected Environment

- A shift from species that generally need high quantities of sunlight to persist (more sun-loving) to those that can tolerate denser and more shaded forest conditions. This condition is considered to be a factor in reducing the resilience and sustainability of the forest; and
- A shift in forest structure, including the pattern or arrangement of the forest communities, has occurred and could affect resilience and the sustainability of historic ecological relationships.

When the Emerald Empire MFP was finalized in November 1981, no plant species in the planning area were listed and had protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 1994, water howellia was listed as threatened, and there is a historical collection of this plant reputedly from the Spirit Lake area in Kootenai County. In 2001, Spalding's catchfly was listed as threatened, with the closest known location of this species at Liberty Lake, Washington, and now presumed lost to land development. In 2001, slender moonwort, known from a historical collection in the upper Priest Lake area, became a candidate species. Since 1981, a BLM-wide special status plants program has evolved, raising awareness of and providing increased opportunities to manage rare plant populations and habitats that have been found within the decision area.

Based on overall vegetation changes in the planning area related to weed invasion, species composition, and forest structure, certain habitats may be headed in the direction of unsuitability for sustaining rare plant populations.

3.2.8 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

The planning area is in a region of the inland northwest that has experienced periodic stand-replacing fires. However, there are many resources at risk from this historical fire regime, particularly humans in the wildland-urban interface. The area is attractive and is a desirable place to live and a popular location for outdoor recreation. Additionally, forest health conditions in their current state contribute to fuel hazards.

Fuel accumulations, structure, and fire suppression has changed the vegetation patterns, structure, and composition of forests; therefore, the role that fire plays in these ecosystems has also been altered. The altered forest composition, when coupled with the additional structures and communities in the urban interface, results in changed conditions that need to be addressed in the new RMP.

The success of fire suppression efforts and resource management activities over the last 100 years has influenced the structure and composition of forests and fuel conditions by changing the tree species composition and by increasing the number of trees per acre, the understory and overstory vegetation, and the amount of dead and dying woody vegetation that remains on the site. The function and process of ecological systems has changed. Fire is no longer a major agent of change, and tree species composition and density has led to increasing insect and disease problems. Population and development densities continue to increase within forested environments of the CdA FO. The risk and severity of fires continues to grow. On a large scale, ICBEMP shows that continuing current management would lead to a decline in ecological integrity. Additionally, wildland fires have a high likelihood of adversely affecting human assets (Forest Service and BLM 1997).

Scientific findings from the ICBEMP highlight fire as a major ecosystem process. Fire severity and frequency have changed across the landscape. Before Euro-American settlement, most fires in low- and mid-elevation forests were nonlethal. Forests and rangelands benefited from these frequent surface fires, which thinned vegetation and favored growth of fire-tolerant trees. Lethal or stand-replacing fires played a lesser role on these landscapes. Lethal fire regimes now exceed nonlethal fire regimes in forested areas. Fire exclusion, livestock grazing, timber harvest, and exotic plant introduction have contributed to these changes (Forest Service 1997).

Fuel Conditions

Fuels include live and dead vegetation. In the CdA FO, grass, dead needles and leaves, dead branches (on the ground or on the tree), bark, and standing live or dead trees and shrubs can be fuel for a fire. Historically, fires periodically removed forest floor fuels and dead trees, and even smaller standing live trees. Successful fire suppression has allowed these fuels to build up. As an example, in vegetation types with frequent fire, forest floor fuels (Table 3-14) typically ranged from one to four tons per acre. Currently, these types average 12 tons of forest floor fuels per acre (Arno 2000). [

Deteriorating forests produce fuels that support high-intensity fires. As the number of trees per acre increases, so does fuel loading and extreme fire behavior potential. More small-diameter trees increase fuel loading, suppress live trees, and promote tree mortality from insects and disease.

The change in fuel conditions on the CdA FO can be indicated using forest health condition measurements. Table 3-14 shows the change in fuels related to live and dead trees that could become fuels in a fire, based on forest health extensive inventories conducted in 1974 and 1992.

Table 3-14 Forest Health and Fuel Indicators in 1974 and 1992

Indicator	1974 Inventory	1992 Inventory	Percent Increase
Number of live trees per acre 5 inches DBH* or less	860	1,341	56
Average diameter at breast height of trees greater than 5 inches DBH	10	11	10
Suppressed live trees per acre	32	107	234
Live white pine blister trees per acre	3	55	1,733
Insect infected and diseased trees per acre	1	105	10,400
Mortality Trees/Acre	25	75	200

*DBH = Diameter at breast height, which is a standard unit of measurement used by foresters.

Fire Regimes

Five historical fire regimes (Table 3-15) are used as part of the fire condition class discussion to describe fire frequency (average number of years between fires) and fire severity (effect of the fire on the dominant overstory vegetation [i.e., low, mixed, or stand replacement]).

Table 3-15 Historical Fire Regimes

Fire Regime	Description
I	0 to 35-year frequency, low severity
II	0 to 35-year frequency, stand-replacement severity
III	35 to 100+ year frequency, mixed severity
IV	35 to 100+-year frequency, stand-replacement severity
V	200+ year frequency, stand-replacement severity 100 years

Source: Hardy et al. 2001

Fire Regime Condition Class

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) is a classification system that describes the extent of departure an area or landscape is from the historic condition to the present condition. FRCC is used to classify existing ecosystem conditions. Three fire regime condition classes are used to categorize the deviation from natural conditions, as described in Table 3-16 below (Schmidt et al. 2002).

3. Affected Environment

The primary focus and number one priority for fire suppression and fuels management activities in the planning area is within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and those communities at high risk from wildland fire. Although the protection of life and property within WUI areas is of highest priority, changes in vegetation conditions such as susceptibility and loss of forested vegetation due to disease and infestation are of serious concern as well. Ingrowth, root rot, and insects have affected Dry Conifer. Conifer encroachment on aspen trees and blister rust in western white pine in the Wet/Cold Conifer type are the predominant forest health issues outside the WUI (see Section 3.2.5, Vegetative Communities).

Table 3-16 Fire Regime Condition Class Descriptions

FRCC	Condition Class Description
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire regimes that are within historic ranges, and the loss of key ecosystem components of the ecosystem from the occurrence of fire is low.• Areas are considered to be healthy and functioning adequately.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire regimes have been moderately altered from their historic range by either increased or decreased fire frequency and are at moderate risk of losing key ecosystem components.• Areas are considered to be unhealthy and their rate of deterioration is expected to increase moderately to rapidly.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire regimes have been significantly altered from their historic range, and the loss of key ecosystem components is high.• Areas are considered to be unhealthy and nonfunctioning.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)

Since the MFP was approved in 1981, more homes and other structures have been built near and around national forests. These structures within the wildland-urban interface are vulnerable to fires. People, homes, and structures continue to occupy the wildland-urban interface and hazard fuels continue to accumulate due to fire suppression and lack of controlled burns or other fuels-management measures, creating a high-risk and volatile situation. The WUI currently covers 36,099 acres, of which 16,906 acres (47 percent) is in the Dry Conifer cover type, 13,829 acres (38 percent) are in the Wet/Cold Conifer cover type, and 5,364 acres (15 percent) are in the Wet/Warm Conifer cover type.

Communities-at-Risk

A list of all WUI communities that are at high risk from wildland fire was published in the Federal Register (Volume 66, August 17, 2001). Approximately 100 communities of varying size and development are considered to be at risk within the CdA FO.

Trends

Vegetation cover types and their specific fire condition class and trends are described below (Table 3-17). Descriptions of the various vegetation cover types are included in the vegetation section of this chapter. Historical or natural fire regime classes were estimated for each vegetation cover type. Historical fire regime was estimated using expected natural/historical fire rotation, expected vegetation condition, and expected fuel

Table 3-17 Existing Vegetation BLM Acres and FRCC in the Planning Area

Fire Regime	Cover Type ¹	BLM GAP Acres	FRCC ²	Reason for Departure
I	Dry conifer	29,450	3	Modification of historic fire regimes, overstocked conditions, accumulations of litter and woody material, and multiple insect infestations and disease pathogens.
II	Mid-elevation shrub	5,384	2	Modification of historic fire regime, heavier than historic fuel loads, decadent plants.
II	Perennial grass	2,451	2	Modification of historic fire regime, invasion of nonnative vegetation.
III	Riparian	1,147	2	Modification of historic fire regime.
III	Aspen/conifer mix	2,002	2	Modification of historic fire regime, decadent vegetation, encroachment by conifers.
IV	Wet/cold conifer	44,672	2	Loss of historic white pine and whitebark pine component, modification of historic fire regime, and disease infection.
V	Wet/warm conifer	8,384	2	Loss of historic white pine component, modification of historic fire regime, disease and insect infestations, and in-growth of Douglas-fir and grand fir.

Source: ¹Derived from Scott et al. 2002²BLM 2004

loads for each vegetation cover type. Current departure for each vegetation cover type, compared to its historical fire regime, was calculated as percent departure from its historical fire regime. While fire condition class determinations were made for each vegetation cover type, site-specific fire regime conditions may vary within a single vegetation cover type.

Table 3-18 below displays indicators of fire in northern Idaho. A more detailed trend analysis for fire management can be found in the 2004 CdA FO fire management plan (BLM 2004). These data are from the USFS IPNF and show all fires in northern Idaho. BLM-specific data for the CdA FO shows fire occurrence only on BLM land since 2001. As that data will not provide an adequate trend analysis for planning, USFS data were used.

Table 3-18 Fire Size History in Northern Idaho	
Decade	Acres Burned
1910-1919	1,150,000
1920-1929	599,000
1930-1939	146,000
1940-1949	14,100
1950-1959	4,190
1960-1969	78,400
1970-1979	10,700
1980-1989	4,840
1990-1999	6,810

3. Affected Environment

There is a sharp decline in acres of large fires from 1920 through the 1950s, most likely due to fire suppression. However, in recent decades, the acres of large fires are increasing or are variable, which may be due to the buildup of fuels resulting from successful fire suppression and the increased risk and severity of fires. A large fire is defined as greater than 10 acres.

The indicator forecast for fire management considerations in northern Idaho demonstrates a greater number of large fires. This is a consequence of several factors but primarily a decrease in forest health.

On a large scale, the ICBEMP shows that with continuation of current management, ecological integrity is projected to decline. Additionally, the environment has a high likelihood of adversely affecting human assets through large wildfires (Forest Service 1997).

3.2.9 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are locations of human activity, occupation, or use. They include expressions of human culture and history in the physical environment, such as prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects, districts, or other places. Cultural resources can be natural features, plants, and animals that are considered to be important to a culture, subculture, or community. Cultural resources also include traditional lifeways and practices.

Prehistoric refers to the time before Euro-Americans established a presence in Idaho in the early nineteenth century. Native American people living in the planning area would have had access to diverse natural resources found in uplands, drainage bottoms, and around lakes. A general three-period chronology has been used to describe the broad patterns of the prehistoric use of this region: the Early Prehistoric Period (Before 8,000-5,000 BC), the Middle Prehistoric Period (5,000 BC to AD 500), and the Late Prehistoric Period (AD 500 to 1750) (Walker 1998).

Little is known of the people who occupied the region during the Early Prehistoric Period because there are few sites representing this period. The Middle Prehistoric Period is associated with shifts in climate and changes in vegetation. During the Late Prehistoric Period there is an increase in frequency of small projectile points, indicating the use of bow and arrow technology.

The first Euro-Americans to enter the planning area in the early 1800s were fur trappers and then missionaries. Contact with nonnative groups resulted in the population and territorial losses, as well as significant disruption of native cultural life.

The mining and timber industries played primary roles in the historic development of the planning area. Gold was discovered in the 1880s, but the development of silver, zinc, and lead were ultimately more important. Mining expanded from small-scale prospecting to large-scale production with towns, transportation systems, and other supporting infrastructure. The extensive rail network and lake transportation systems supported expansion of the logging industry.

Contemporary Native American groups such as the Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and Kalispel Tribes maintain social and cultural ties to the land and resources of the planning area. Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) are places associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. These sites are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining cultural identity.

Cultural resources in the CdA FO are managed in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and guidelines. The principal federal law addressing cultural resources is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of

1966, as amended (16 United States Code [USC] Section 470), and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800). The NHPA describes the process for identifying and evaluating historic properties, for assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties, and for consulting to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects. The term “historic properties” refers to cultural resources that meet specific criteria for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The BLM meets its NHPA responsibilities under a protocol agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, as provided for in the National BLM Programmatic Agreement. The process requires a reasonable and good faith effort to consult with Native American groups or those with scientific or other interests in affected resources and who might attach religious and cultural significance to affected resources.

The Emerald Empire Management Framework Plan included decisions concerning survey requirements, resource evaluation, and avoidance of impacts to resources, prohibitions of vehicle access to areas of cultural importance to the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, and specific inventories and studies necessary to manage cultural resources.

Only portions of the lands administered by the CdA FO have been inventoried for cultural resources. There are 92 known cultural resource sites administered by the CdA FO. Most recorded sites are related to mining history and include adits, tramways, cabins, and mill sites. Many of the recorded cultural resources have not been evaluated for their eligibility for listing on the NRHP, but most are thought to be eligible. Sites associated with a massive fire in northern Idaho in 1910 are listed on the NRHP and include the Pulaski Tunnel site. One area along the Rochat Divide is considered to be a TCP for contemporary Native American communities.

The condition and trend of cultural resources in the planning area vary considerably due to the diversity of terrain, geomorphology, access and visibility, and past and current land use patterns. Because recorded sites are manifested by exposed artifacts, features, or structures, they are easily disturbed by wind and water erosion, animal and human intrusion, natural deterioration and decay, and development and maintenance activities. Based on limited site monitoring and site form documentation, the trend of site conditions in the planning area is considered to be downward.

New directives for land use planning in the BLM Land Use Planning Manual H-1601-1 and BLM Manual Section 8110.4 and IB 2002-101 require categorizing known and expected cultural resources according to their nature and relative preservation value. Resource types are allocated to appropriate use categories that include scientific use, conservation for future use, traditional use, public use, experimental use, or discharged from management. These directives also require the identification of priority geographic areas for new field inventory or protective measures. These decisions would be based on a probability for unrecorded significant resources, imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses.

In conjunction with the RMP, the BLM has developed a Class I overview of the cultural resources of the lands administered by the Coeur d’Alene Field Office. A Class I overview is a summary of literature, records, and other documents providing an informed basis for understanding the nature of the cultural resources of the region. The BLM is also refining a cultural resource GIS project to organize records for cultural resource sites, inventories, and maps. These are important steps in allocating resources to use categories and in identifying areas where there is resource potential or where there are threats from incompatible uses. The BLM has established six use categories, as follows:

3. Affected Environment

- **Scientific Use**—Applies to any cultural resource determined to be available for scientific or historical study using currently available research techniques;
- **Conservation for Future Use**—A cultural resource included in this category is deemed worthy of segregation from all other land or resource uses, including cultural resource uses, that threaten the maintenance of its present condition or setting;
- **Traditional Use**—Is to be applied to any cultural resource known to be perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as important in maintaining the cultural identity, heritage, or well being of the group;
- **Public Use**—May be applied to a cultural resource found to be appropriate for use as an interpretive exhibit in place or for related educational and recreational uses by members of the general public;
- **Experimental Use**—May be applied to a cultural resource judged well suited for controlled experimental study, to be conducted by the BLM or others, concerned with the techniques of managing cultural resources that would result in the property's alteration, possibly including loss of integrity and destruction of physical elements; and
- **Discharged from Management**—Is assigned to cultural resources that have no remaining identifiable use, such as small surface scatters of artifacts or debris.

All cultural resources would be allocated to one or more use categories under all the alternatives addressed in this plan. Cultural resources allocated to the various uses would be subject to management actions outlined in H-1601-1. The NHPA and other cultural resource requirements would still be applicable, but the categorization of resource use provides a proactive planning mechanism for preserving and protecting significant cultural resources and ensuring that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

The future demand for cultural resources within the planning area is expected to remain minimal, with the exception of some Native American groups and local communities. Native Americans will continue to have an interest in protecting and preserving cultural sites and uses. Local communities have expressed a desire for interpreting historic sites. Vandalism or collecting, including unauthorized digging, surface collection, and use of metal detectors, is minimal. Development and maintenance activities such as mining, mine remediation, recreation, and OHV use may continue to affect some sites. The natural deterioration and decay of wooden and rock structures at historic mining and homesteading sites would continue.

Recorded cultural resources in the planning area are primarily related to mining history. Because these locations often have health, safety, and hazardous material concerns and can become active mine sites again, there are many issues to be considered in managing these resources. The Rochat Divide TCP is an important resource that might not be recognized and is subject to risk from other uses.

3.2.10 Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources are the physical remains or other physical evidence of past plants and animals generally preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for correlating and dating rock strata and for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

The geologic units present in the planning area have little or no fossil potential due to composition and great age. The geology is dominated by extremely thick igneous and highly metamorphosed rocks, which do not support fossils, and very early Precambrian formations, which predate most life forms. Some Miocene invertebrate and vertebrate fossil localities are known on private lands near Clarkia in the planning area.

(Smiley 1989). There may be limited potential for fossil specimens in the sedimentary belt formations that formed during the Precambrian, although there are none reported (Alt and Hyndman 1989).

Paleontological resources that occur on public lands are managed in accordance with the requirements of several federal laws, primarily FLPMA. Additional requirements for the use, management, and protection of paleontological resources on public lands are addressed in a series of federal regulations and orders, as well as by specific BLM manual guidance. The BLM Handbook H-8270-1 describes a classification system that ranks areas into three classes based on their potential to contain vertebrate fossils or exceptional invertebrate or plant fossils. There is no existing plan guidance for paleontological resources or classification of formations within the CdA FO.

There have been no proactive inventories for paleontological resources, and there are no known vertebrate or invertebrate fossil localities on public lands in the planning area. Because of the low potential and lack of known sites, there have been no management concerns in the past, and the demand and interest from professional paleontologists is low. If any resources are located in the future, then actions would be initiated to properly manage those resources.

3.2.11 Visual Resources

The underlying reason for establishing VRM objectives is to ensure that the visual value or scenic quality of the landscape is retained. Scenic quality is a measure of visual appeal. In the BLM system, an A, B, or C rating is assigned (Table 3-19).

Landscapes are rated within the context of the physiographic province in which they are located. The degree of harmonious visual variety and diversity in a landscape's landform, vegetation, and water features in terms of form, line color, and texture largely determines its rating. Additional rating factors include the influence of adjacent scenery and the scarcity and degree to which cultural modifications detract from or enhance the landscape.

Table 3-19 Scenic Quality Class Ratings in the Planning Area		
Class	Degree of Visual Variety	Representative Areas
A	Distinctive (high)	Rochat Divide and Widow Mountain.
B	Common or typical (moderate)	Most of the CdA FO, due to numerous water features, including both large and small lakes.
C	Minimal value or below average (low)	Primarily limited to two small parcels and one larger parcel managed by the BLM in the CdA FO. Rathdrum Prairie is one example of this class, although it contains no BLM land.

A large increase in population and recreation use over the last two decades has increased visual sensitivity. Public sensitivity about visual resources will continue to increase as population densities and recreation opportunities increase. Disturbances on land adjacent to BLM land and the fragmented BLM land ownership pattern will continue to have subsequent effects on BLM visual resources. Also, commodity extraction activities such as mining and timber harvesting are continually changing the quality of visual resources.

3. Affected Environment

The planning area is generally considered to be scenic under the VRM system. While much of the area is typical (Class B scenery), the presence of large and small lakes is somewhat unique to the northern Rocky Mountain physiographic province. The area is typical of the Northern Rocky Mountain Physiographic Province, with steep slopes and narrow stream valleys. It also contains significant water features, such as Lake Coeur d'Alene and Lake Pend Oreille, and various rivers, such as the St. Joe, Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene. Areas with water features are visually important and should be used to guide management decisions. Two high elevation mountain areas are distinctive, exhibiting Class A scenery, including the Rochat Divide and Widow Mountain areas. Only one scenery quality rating unit is rated as Class C scenery; this unit contains no BLM land.

Visual resource management classes adopted in the Emerald Empire MFP for the decision area differ from inventoried classes in several locations. To minimize visual resource management constraints on timber harvesting and forest management activities, some inventoried Class II areas were designated Class III and some inventoried Class III areas were designated Class IV (Table 3-20). This has not resulted in an overall degradation of scenic quality but has resulted in expressed user dissatisfaction on some specific projects. Interstate 90 and US Highway 95 warrant a Class II rating.

Table 3-20 Visual Resource Management Classes and Objectives in the Planning Area

VRM Class	Objective	BLM Acres
I	Preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes and limited management activity. It is used for special areas where management situations require preservation of a natural environment unaltered by humans, such as wilderness and wilderness study areas.	21,719
II	Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change should be low, and management activities may be seen but should not attract attention.	14,312
III	Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change should be moderate, and management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer.	33,259
IV	Provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Activities may dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention.	27,480

WSAs are automatically designated VRM Class I. There are three WSAs in the planning area. Please refer to the Special Designations section (Section 3.4) for a description of these areas.

The following two Scenic Byways are found within the planning area:

- Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway; and
- White Pine Scenic Byway.

In addition to these Scenic Byways, the State of Idaho has recently designated the St. Joe River Road as a Scenic Byway.

In many instances, the BLM manages only fragments of landscapes and has a minor influence on the maintenance of scenic quality in these areas. Often the land management practices of others have a greater influence. BLM land management actions have generally been small scale, usually involving vegetation modifications from forest management activities and landform modifications from road construction. Minor structure modifications involving utility work on rights-of-way also commonly occur.

3.3 RESOURCE USES

This section contains a description of the existing human uses of resources in the planning area and follows the order of topics addressed in Chapter 2. These topics are:

- Forestry and Woodland Products
- Livestock Grazing
- Minerals
- Recreation
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation and Travel
- Lands and Realty

3.3.1 Forestry and Woodland Products

The planning area initially identified 133,261 acres as suitable for timber management and used this acreage to calculate the annual sale quantity (see Table 3-21, below). In 1991, a land exchange reduced the BLM-managed commercial forest lands by about 13,900 acres. Subsequent land exchanges have reduced the public land base to 96,243 acres, of which 85,574 acres are considered to be forested vegetation.

Probable Sale Quantity

The PSQ is the amount of timber that could be removed from BLM-managed lands where commercial forest uses are considered appropriate. Calculations are based on species, growth, mortality, land base, and sustainability. The PSQ also takes into account the existing forest health, desired stocking levels (stand density), and desired species composition as well as the other factors listed. The PSQ does not include volume removed for other purposes from other areas, such as recreation sites where hazard trees are removed. When calculating the PSQ, only the three major forested vegetation cover types were used: Dry Conifer, Wet/Cold Conifer, and Wet/Warm Conifer. The Aspen/Aspen Conifer Mix was not considered because any management activities in this cover type would produce only a very small amount of forest products consisting mostly of merchantable conifers that may be removed inside Aspen Groves in order to maintain these groves. The Riparian/Wetland cover type was considered to be withdrawn. In contrast to annual sale quantities (ASQs), which offer a mandatory annual sale quantity each year, PSQ is not a mandatory annual sale quantity. Actual forest products that may be offered each year depend on the type of vegetation treatments being applied and the number of acres being treated.

Under the Emerald Empire MFP, 6.5 million board feet (MMBF) were to be offered for sale annually. This was based on a commercial forest land base of 133,261 acres. However, the ASQ was abandoned in 1993, following the legislated land exchange with Potlatch that transferred approximately 18,720 acres of BLM land. Since 1993, the CdA FO has offered between 2 MMBF and 4 MMBF annually, nearly all of which was sold under the Forest Health and Recovery Fund (FHRF), which uses proceeds to restore, maintain, and enhance forest health. Currently, the PSQ would be approximately 3.7 MMBF annually, which would be harvested from approximately 7 percent of the CdA FO area (7,000 acres). These forest products would come from the Dry Conifer, Wet/Cold Conifer, and Wet/Warm Conifer cover types. Approximately 56 MMBF would be harvested over 15 years. This represents 12 percent of the anticipated growth over these three cover types (82,456 acres) during this period, or 17 percent of the anticipated growth from the non-withdrawn acres (54,565 acres). Under the FHRF, in addition to harvesting dead and dying trees, efforts are made to remove excess trees to return these forests more closely to their historic stocking levels and species mix. With the enactment of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2004 (Title 1, Section 102[f]), harvesting operations

include reducing forest fuels to reduce the effects and ravages of wildfire and sustaining important components of the forest ecosystem (e.g., retaining large and old-growth trees). This act also provides for protecting domestic and municipal watersheds.

Demand for Forest Products

The saw log market continues to be good, but periodic downturns in this market cannot be predicted accurately. Saw logs produced from timber sales have been a major source of income for the private sector. In recent years, the alternative forest product markets (e.g., hew wood, hog fuel, etc.) are providing more and more income to the federal government and mills designed to use this material are being built.

The small log market has made significant gains with the past five years. Based on the April 2005 Small Log Conference held in Coeur d'Alene, wood products from small logs or hew wood (logs between 4" and 9" in diameter) make superior studs (2x4s). This is resulting in another significant income source for the private sector and has caused fierce competition for small logs. Furthermore, the alternative forest products market (biomass for co-generation power plants) is beginning to grow. While biomass material is used mostly by sawmills to generate their power needs, depending on hauling costs, biomass material is proving to be another source of income for the private sector.

Much of the increased stocking that has occurred between 1974 and 1992, as shown in the above table, is from ingrowth from shade-tolerant species (mostly Douglas-fir and grand fir). Much of this ingrowth is in the smaller diameter classes. As noted, the demand for hew wood is increasing, and much of the ingrowth can supply this market. The same applies to biomass products to run cogeneration power plants. Currently most cogeneration plants cannot compete very well with hydroelectric power. However, more and more sawmills are using cogeneration plants to run their operations and selling the surplus power. Local operators are finding ways to more efficiently produce power from cogeneration plants and are expected to use much of the biomass that is left behind after logging operations. According to articles in the Smallwood News (Rawlins 2004), the market for alternative forest products is expected to increase.

Saw logs are generally broken into three categories; large, regular, and small wood. Generally large saw logs are considered to have scaling diameters larger than 24 inches and are sold on a per MBF basis (scaling diameter is the diameter of a log at its small end). In about 1998 sawmills started to retool their mills to use smaller saw logs. Because almost all of the saw logs sold by the planning area have scaling diameters less than 24 inches, no records are available to determine the exact time when sawmills started to discriminate against larger saw logs.

Regular saw logs generally have scaling diameters ranging from 9 to 24 inches. This is the most common saw log sold in northern Idaho.

Demand for regular saw logs will remain high. However, the ability of federal lands to provide saw logs with 16 inch DBH or greater will decrease over the next several years because Title 1, Section 102(f) of HFRA directs the BLM and USFS to favor retention of larger trees in many public forests. Because of the emphasis on removing ingrowth and favoring retention of large trees, the supply of forest products coming from public lands will be mostly from the 4" to 16" diameter classes as well as recovery of biomass products from vegetation less than 4" in diameter.

3.3.2 Livestock Grazing

The BLM authorizes livestock grazing on public lands under the authority of the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended, and the FLPMA of 1976, as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, for multiple use and sustained yield. Under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4100, qualified

applicants may obtain a Section 15 Grazing Lease for an allotment. A Section 15 Grazing Lease specifies: 1) allotment name and number; 2) class of livestock; 3) number of livestock; 4) season-of-use; and 5) other specific terms and conditions. Each Grazing Lease is authorized for ten years. The livestock forage allocation on an allotment is expressed in animal unit months (AUMs). One AUM is defined as the quantity of forage required by one mature cow and her calf, or the equivalent in sheep or horses, for one month. The Northern Idaho Grazing Management EIS proposed forage allocations in terms of AUMs for livestock and wildlife for each grazing allotment.

There are nine allotments in the planning area available for livestock grazing, (see Table 3-21). Four of the nine allotments are currently leased and consist of 1,281 acres and 269 AUMs. The remaining five allotments are not leased and consist of 2,786 acres and 144 AUMs. Allotments are shown on Map #13 in Volume III.

Allotment	Acres	Type of Livestock	Season of Use	AUMs	Leasing Status
Terror Gulch 36000	92	Cattle	6/15-10/1	8	Vacant
Twin Peaks 36002	199	Cattle	6/1-10/31	148	Leased
Gold Mountain West 36003	353	Cattle	6/1-10/31	44	Vacant
Gold Mountain East 36007	315	Cattle	6/1-10/31	22	Vacant
Long Mountain 36009	779	Cattle	6/15-9/15	101	Leased
Trout Creek 36012	231	Cattle	5/1-10/15	30	Leased
Drummond Peak 36013	188	Cattle Horse	5/1-9/15	27	Vacant
Latour Creek 36019	1,838	Cattle	7/1-10/31	76	Vacant
Ninemile Creek 36020	9	Horse	6/1-10/30	5	Leased

Grazing allotments in the planning area are timbered and are not typical “rangelands.” These allotments are referred to as having transitory range. Transitory range is limited to the forage that is provided through timber harvest and/or other land treatments. When the timbered lands within the grazing allotments are harvested and/or burned, forage becomes available for wildlife and livestock for approximately 15 years.

The vegetation section identifies complete BLM vegetation acreages for the entire planning area.

3.3.3 Minerals

The activity level for the BLM mineral management responsibility is highly variable throughout the planning area and has historically fluctuated, depending on the viability of various sectors of the mining industry. The Wallace area (Shoshone County) has mineral deposits of national importance. Two large silver mines (Lucky Friday and the Galena) continue to operate here, and a large portion of the working population is employed in

some sort of mining activity. The CdA FO continues to address the mineral issues on public lands and is involved in ongoing administration related to leasable, locatable, and salable materials in the planning area. A generalized picture of the mineral potential within the CdA FO is shown on Map #14 in Volume III.

Eleven locatable minerals operations for such commodities as lode gold, gold placer, and silver, covering approximately nine acres, occur in the planning area, ranging in status from expired/reclamation to pending or authorized. The planning area has one notable gold mining district, the Murray Mining District. BLM lands around this district are extensive. Five of the eleven locatable minerals activities, approved or pending approval, are in this area.

A number of silver, lead, and zinc deposits are located throughout the planning area. The most significant district in the planning area and in the entire state is the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, which represents one of the premier mining districts in the world. Silver, lead, and zinc have historically been the major commodities developed within the planning area, but their importance has declined significantly over the past two decades as mines in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District (Silver Valley) have closed down. Mining and prospecting continues in the Silver Valley on a reduced scale.

Of the five active cases involving the sale of mineral materials from BLM land within the CdA FO, one is for sand and gravel and four are for decorative stone. The amount of surface disturbance anticipated from these five cases is less than 15 acres. Between 1987 and 2003, ten contracts covering about 52 acres were issued; these have been reclaimed, and the cases have been closed.

Presently, state, county, and private sites meet the demand for mineral materials. Currently there are no operating pits on BLM land within the planning area, but there is an approved plan of operation for a future pit (Free Use Permit, serial #034132) with the Post Falls Highway District, located just north of Post Falls. Aggregate resources are present throughout the planning area and are subject to increasing consumptive demand as a result of urban building and development. Similarly, dimension and decorative stone occurrences have been subjected to increasing demand for architectural and landscaping applications.

A large area containing scattered high-kaolin clay deposits extends from Coeur d'Alene in the north to Grangeville in the south, primarily underlain by highly weathered Thatuna granite and Columbia River basalt flows. Most of the clay deposits are in Latah County. The planning area also includes significant gold production from the Murray Mining District and abrasive garnets from the Emerald Creek Mining District. Also, the Emerald Creek Mining District in the south-central portion of the planning area continues to see significant production of abrasive garnets. However, BLM administered land is very limited in these areas and no operations related to these commodities are occurring, or are anticipated to occur, on BLM land.

Silver is the primary commodity currently produced in the Silver Valley, which has enabled the Coeur d'Alene Mining District to become the largest silver district in the world, with over 1 billion ounces recorded. The future of the silver, zinc, and lead segment of the mining industry depends on the price of silver and environmental and political factors. No new mines are anticipated in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, but reopening existing mines for exploration or development is a distinct possibility in the future. Similarly, gold continues to be produced from the Murray Mining District. Historical activity for this commodity indicates that exploration and development of new and existing properties in the planning area can be expected to follow the trend of commodity price.

Within the planning area, nearly the entire Rathdrum Prairie is underlain by river and glacial deposits, which are a ready supply for the construction industry around the population centers of Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

Access to many of the alluvial sources along the major rivers is limited by state and federal restrictions, such as the Wild and Scenic River designations, which tend to isolate some sections of the highway system from nearby low-cost aggregate sources. Political and social trends that tend to restrict the availability of sand, gravel, and crushed stone in Idaho are becoming more prevalent in some areas, particularly around urban centers.

In northern Idaho there is a growing demand by the construction and landscaping industries around Coeur d'Alene and Spokane for attractive ornamental dimension stone, which can be found throughout the planning area. Further development of this resource can be anticipated. It is not possible to predict where this material will be found because of the wide variety of potential geological environments.

Development of other mineral resources is expected to be low throughout the planning area.

3.3.4 Recreation

Although BLM-administered land is scattered throughout the planning area, many tracts have extraordinary recreation values and receive high levels of use. Waterfront sites are especially valuable. Water-based recreation activities within the planning area include boating (motorized and nonmotorized), fishing, tubing, and canoeing. Other recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, scenic viewing, wildlife viewing, and motorized vehicle use (see Section 3.3.6, Transportation and Travel). Cross-country and downhill skiing also take place in the planning area in winter.

Where applicable, the BLM coordinates recreation management with the USFS. BLM- and USFS-managed lands are often adjacent, which presents an opportunity to ensure that recreation management objectives between the federal agencies are consistent. The USFS employs a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) inventory system similar to that of the BLM and is in the process of finishing a recreation opportunity class inventory for USFS lands. Both the BLM and the USFS conduct these inventories on a broad scale within their respective planning areas.

The CdA FO recreation program has responsibility for the following:

- Eighteen developed recreation sites with varied levels of development;
- Two research natural areas (RNA)/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), covering 3,075 acres (see Section 3.4, Special Designations);
- Three wilderness study areas (WSAs) (See Section 3.4, Special Designations);
- The Mineral Ridge National Recreation Trail (See Section 3.4, Special Designations);
- Marble Creek National Recreational Trails (NRTs);
- Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas; and
- Dispersed recreation throughout the approximately 96,732 acres of public land administered by the BLM.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Recreation values and plans for recreation uses are referred to as recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes. All BLM land has been categorized within one of the ROS classes identified in Table 3-22.

The ROS inventory shows most of the planning area in roaded natural settings. Large areas of semiprimitive settings are in the two WSAs.

Table 3-22 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

ROS Class	Description of Class	Acres ¹
Primitive	Areas characterized by essentially unmodified, relatively large natural environments, where there is opportunity for isolation from human sights and sounds.	0
Semiprimitive motorized and nonmotorized	Areas characterized by a predominately moderate to large, unmodified natural environment, where some areas offer opportunity for isolation from human sights and sounds, while others are open to motorized use.	47,601
Roaded natural	Areas characterized by a generally natural environment, with moderate evidence of human sights and sounds. There is about equal opportunity for affiliation with other user groups and for isolation.	43,790
Rural	Areas characterized by a substantially modified natural environment, where human sights and sounds are readily evident.	5,379

Special Recreation Management Areas

Current decision documents, including the MFP and BLM Manual 8320, provide general guidance for recreation resources. However, much of the BLM land currently in the planning area managed for recreation has been acquired since the 1981 MFP was written. Recreation management areas were inventoried as part of the MFP, but area designations were not carried forward as planning decisions, so areas important to recreation planning were not identified.

Subsequent recreation planning guidance directed that areas be categorized as special recreation management areas (SRMAs), which are areas that require explicit recreation management or extensive recreation management areas (ERMAs), which are areas where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required. Three areas that have been administratively recognized are the Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA (Kootenai County), the Lower Coeur d'Alene River SRMA (Kootenai County), and the Gamlin Lake SRMA (Bonner County). A management plan is in place for Coeur d'Alene Lake and Gamlin Lake. No other SRMAs have been designated.

In recent years, recreation issues have evolved or are emerging in other areas where SRMA designation should be considered. Rochat Divide, Lookout Mountain, and Silver Valley are all areas considered excellent candidates for SRMA designation. In addition to the SRMAs, the recently acquired Blue Creek Bay portion of the Wallace Forest Conservation Area is under study for its potential recreational use.

Recreation Visitor Use and Trends

Over the last 25 years, population has grown tremendously within the planning area, and population is anticipated to continue to increase steadily. The planning area has emerged and is promoted as a travel and tourism destination. Estimated annual visits are approximately 230,000 (Kincaid 2005). Opportunities for outdoor recreation within public lands will continue to increase (refer to Section 3.5 for a discussion of the economic aspects of recreation in the CdA FO).

In addition to BLM-administered lands, three National Forests (Coeur d'Alene, Kaniksu, and St. Joe) manage land within the planning area. This combination of recreation opportunity creates a major recreation and tourism destination, drawing local visitors and tourists regionally and nationally. The CdA FO collects fees at

several different recreation sites, including boat ramps and campgrounds. The CdA FO also administers special use permits to outfitters and guides. Special use permits typically generate much less revenue for the CdA FO when compared to revenue generated from boat ramps and campgrounds.

Intense recreation management occurs mainly in the three SRMAs. The Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA contains nine separate recreation sites and includes highly developed boat ramps, primitive boat docks, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, picnic shelters, trails, camp sites, and boat-in only sites. The Gamlin Lake SRMA provides recreation opportunities emphasizing day-use areas, nonmotorized trail activities, and fishing. The Lower Coeur d'Alene River SRMA concentrates on river-based recreation opportunities. Table 3-23 displays the recreation site visitor use on BLM-managed land in 2004.

Table 3-23 Recreation Visitor Use— Planning Area (2004)

Management Area/Site	Approximate Number of Visits
Beauty Bay	15,000
Blackwell Island	17,000
Blue Creek Bay	2,400
Conga Bay	2,150
Crater Lake Peak	250
Crater Lake Saddle	550
Gamlin Lake	4,600
Huckleberry Campground	4,800
Killarney Lake Picnic Site	1,000
Mica Bay Boater Park	11,500
Mineral Ridge	75,000
Orphan Point Saddle Camp	600
Popcorn Island	1,000
Ross Point	2,300
Sheep Springs Campsite	2,200
Tingley Springs Campsite	1,000
Windy Bay Boater Park	2,300
Total	148,750

Source: Kincaid 2005

Note: All values are rounded.

3.3.5 Renewable Energy

Renewable energy includes solar power, wind, biomass, and geothermal resources. As demand has increased for clean and viable energy to power the nation, consideration of renewable energy sources available on public lands has come to the forefront of land management planning.

In cooperation with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the BLM assessed renewable energy resources on public lands in the western United States (BLM and DOE 2003). The BLM reviewed the potential for concentrated solar power (CSP), photovoltaic (PV), wind, biomass, and geothermal energy on US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Forest Service lands in the West. Hydropower was not addressed.

The planning area lacks commercial concentrated solar power and photovoltaic energy potential (BLM and DOE 2003). There is no geothermal resource within the planning area (Tetra Tech 2005). There is a warm-water well near Spirit Lake in Kootenai County and a warm spring in the northeast part of the Coeur d'Alene

Mining District, near Kellogg. According to the Idaho State Office of the BLM, as of November 15, 2004, there are no geothermal leases or claims on federal lands within the planning area.

In its National Renewable Energy Laboratory Study, the BLM evaluated the long-term sustainability to support biomass plants using the monthly Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) computed from National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer Land Pathfinder satellite program. For an area to have biomass development potential, it had to meet the following criteria: an NDVI of 0.4 for at least four months between April and September, a slope of less than 12 percent, proximity of a maximum of 50 miles to a town with at least 100 people, and BLM- and USFS-compatible land use. About 14.5 percent of BLM lands scattered throughout the planning area meet these criteria (BLM and DOE 2003).

BLM has observed that the new wood market has increased and there has been a significant increase in demand for alternative forest products, including hog fuel, which provides burnable biomass products to run cogeneration power plants. Currently most cogeneration plants are not competitive with hydroelectric power, but an increasing number of sawmills are using cogeneration plants to run their operations and are selling the surplus power. Local operators are finding ways to more efficiently produce power from cogeneration plants, and it is anticipated that local cogeneration plants will use much of the biomass that is left behind after logging operations. According to articles in the *Smallwood News*, which tracks small-diameter timber utilization and markets, the market for alternative forest products is expected to increase. During recent on-site visits at potential project areas, personnel from local industries requested that BLM offer more sales of alternative forest products (BLM 2004a).

Wind power classes range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). BLM-managed lands in approximately 13 percent of the planning area are Class 3 and higher, and the former Emerald Empire Planning Unit (now the Coeur d'Alene Field Office) is in the top 25 BLM planning units in the US having the highest wind energy potential (Class 5 and higher). About four percent of BLM lands in the planning area had the highest wind energy potential (BLM and DOE 2003). The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States (BLM 2004b) categorizes BLM-administered lands into areas having low, medium, or high potential for wind energy development from 2005 through 2025, on the basis of their wind power classification. Wind resources in Class 3 and higher could be developed economically with current technology over the next 20 years. Class 3 resources have medium potential; resources in Classes 4 and higher have high potential. The draft programmatic environmental impact statement identifies scattered public land parcels in the planning area with medium or high wind resource potential that might be developed economically with current technology; these are concentrated between the towns of St. Maries and Osburn in Benewah and Shoshone Counties and between Priest River and Samuels in Bonner County. Map #24 in Volume III shows the BLM lands within the planning area with Class 3 or higher wind power potential. To date there has been no interest in developing wind energy within the planning area.

Various national and state incentives are in place in Idaho that encourage the development of renewable energy resources; however, the 2003 BLM and DOE report ranks Idaho as neutral with respect to incentives for the development of renewable power (BLM and DOE 2003). In May 2001, the President adopted a National Energy Policy with recommendations for evaluating current conditions surrounding access and using public lands to "increase renewable energy production, such as biomass, wind, geothermal, and solar." Also recommended are federal incentives, including corporate depreciation, through which businesses can recover investments in solar, wind, and geothermal property.

State incentives include an income tax deduction of 40 percent of the cost of a solar, wind, or geothermal device used for heating or electricity generation, renewable energy project grants, production incentives to purchase renewable energy credits associated with the energy generated by renewable energy systems installed by customers, and various tax incentives and loan programs aimed at encouraging renewable energy production.

Given these incentives to agencies, businesses, and consumers, along with anticipated population increases (see Table 2-2 of the Coeur d'Alene RMP Socioeconomic Report) and an increasing demand for biomass, renewable energy development, particularly wind and biomass, is expected to increase over the planning period, and management actions are necessary to provide for future renewable energy growth while protecting sensitive resource values.

3.3.6 Transportation and Travel

Public travel and transportation needs within the planning area are met by state, county, and forest public road systems. BLM roads are administrative routes maintained for resource management activities. Where open to public uses they do provide some important recreation access to specific BLM land areas. There has been a tremendous increase in demand for motorized recreation. Four times more OHVs were registered in Kootenai County in 2003 than were registered for the entire state in 1981 (IDPR 2004). Advances in motorized recreational equipment have also increased OHV users' accessibility to areas that were previously remote and often inaccessible.

BLM Roads and Trails

The comprehensive inventory of the road and trail networks indicated that there are approximately 376.8 miles of roads and trails throughout the planning area. Table 3-24 shows the breakdown of miles of roads within the CdA FO by road type. Approximately 84 percent of roads and trails are within the open or limited vehicle designation. Sixteen percent are closed routes.

Unimproved roads constitute approximately 60 percent of the road and trail length within the decision area. Trails make up 31 percent of the travel routes in the decision area.

Table 3-24 Miles of Roads and Trails within the Planning Area

Type	Vehicle Designation		Total Miles
	Open or Limited	Closed	
Highway	5.1	2.1	7.2
Light-duty road	20.9	4.5	25.4
Unimproved road	207.9	19.1	227.0
Trails	80.1	35.7	115.8
Total Miles	315.4	16.4	376.8
Percent of Total Miles	84%	16%	

OHV Use

Because of the scattered BLM land pattern, the CdA FO has a limited land base and transportation system with which to provide OHV opportunities. The USFS manages most of the federal lands within the planning area, and much of the Forest System land is contiguous. Consequently, the opportunity for OHV use is largely on Forest System lands. Opportunities exist for the BLM to connect trail and roads into the existing and planned Forest System motorized road and trail system.

All public lands are required to be designated as open, limited, or closed to OHVs, as established by 43 CFR 8342.1 (Table 3-25). Under the existing MFP, the CdA FO manages 63,041 acres as open, 32,567 acres as limited, and 162 acres as closed to OHV use (Table 3-26).

Areas open to OHV use were originally designated as open because current OHV management issues did not exist at the time of the Emerald Empire MFP decision. Land managers considered most of these open lands to be inaccessible because of physical or legal barriers. The previous reasons for designating areas as open are no longer valid under the current policy guidance.

Table 3-25 BLM Travel Designations and Descriptions

Designation	Description
Open	The BLM designates areas as open for intensive OHV use where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel.
Limited	The BLM designates areas as limited where it must restrict OHV use in order to meet specific resource management objectives. These limitations may include restricting the number or types of vehicles, limiting the time or season of use, allowing permitted or licensed use only, limiting use to existing roads and trails, and limiting use to designated roads and trails. The BLM may place other limitations, as necessary, to protect resources, particularly in areas that motorized OHV enthusiasts use intensely or where they participate in competitive events.
Closed	The BLM designates areas as closed if closure to all vehicular use is necessary to protect resources, to ensure visitor safety, or to reduce use conflicts.

Table 3-26 Current Travel Designations on BLM Lands in the Planning Area

OHV Designation	Size (acres)	Percent of Planning Area
Closed to vehicle use	162	0.2%
Limited vehicle use	33,567	33.8%
Undesignated or open to vehicle use	63,041	66%

Areas that are limited to OHV use are concentrated in the Hunter-Trapper, Rock Creek, and Reeds Gulch areas. OHV use is also limited to designated roads and trails within WSAs and municipal watersheds. Restrictions on OHV use can relate to the type of vehicle permitted or the season of use. These restrictions are often the result of wildlife resource concerns. Currently, any newly acquired lands are limited to designated roads by executive order.

A small percentage of lands are closed to OHV use. All ACEC/RNAs are closed, largely to protect valued plant habitat. The Roachat Roadless Area is closed to protect cultural values. Two sites, Smelterville Flats and Osburn Cemetery, are closed to protect vegetation and special features.

3.3.7 Lands and Realty

Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM-administered land, such as right-of-way (ROW) grants, road use agreements, and associated temporary use permits under several different authorities; leases, permits, and easements, under Sec. 302 of the FLPMA; and Recreation and Public

Purposes (R&PP) Act leases. For the purposes of this planning effort, R&PP transfers, unlike R&PP leases, are considered land tenure adjustments and are discussed below. Currently, the CdA FO analyzes requests for land use authorizations and applies mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.

The CdA FO administers 224 ROWs, encumbering 1,329 acres of public land (BLM 2005). These existing grants are for a myriad of different facilities and are held by private individuals and groups, as well as by various business and government entities (Table 3-27). Roads, power transmission and distribution lines, and telephone lines are the most common facilities to be granted for ROWs and account for well over half of the total number of grants. Examples of additional types of ROW facilities authorized within the planning area include water pipelines, communication sites, ditches, railroads, material sites, and fiber optic lines. The CdA FO processes approximately 30 to 40 ROW actions annually, including those for new facilities (e.g., roads, power lines, telephone lines, communication sites, water facilities) and those for amending, assigning, renewing, or relinquishing existing ROW grants.

The BLM has not formally designated any ROW corridors within the planning area, although attempts are made to group compatible facilities where possible. The CdA FO currently has no ROW exclusion or avoidance areas in existing land use plans, although specially designated areas, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Research Natural Areas, and Wilderness Study Areas (see Section 3.4, Special Designations) do restrict such development. A 2003 update to the 1992 ROW corridor study by the Western Utility Group indicates that there are five potential corridors (Volume III, Map #45) (Western Utility Group 2003).

Type	Number of Authorizations	Length in Miles	Acreage
Road	115	158	751
Railroad	7	2	52
Powerline	37	47	360
Telephone	10	16	44
Water Facilities	38	2	45
Other	13	n/a	16
Oil and Gas (energy)	4	12	63
Total	224	237	1,329

Ten communication site rights-of-way, occupying three different communication site locations, are authorized within the CdA FO (Table 3-28). Potential new users are encouraged to locate within existing communication facilities. The St. Joe Baldy site contains all but two of the CdA FO communication site rights-of-way. While St. Joe Baldy had a communication site plan completed in 1993, there are no site plans for either of the other two communication site facilities because of their single-occupant status.

Table 3-28 Communication Sites and Locations

Communication Site	Legal Description (Boise Meridian, Idaho)
St. Joe Baldy (8 occupants)	SW¼NW¼, sec. 1, T.46N., R.1W.
Revenue Gulch (1 occupant)	NW¼SE¼, sec. 22, T.48N., R.4E..
Murray (1 occupant)	Lot 19, sec. 5, T.49N., R.5E.

The CdA FO administers five Sec. 302 FLPMA temporary land use permits involving about five acres of BLM lands. These permits are issued for a term of up to three years and are for the temporary use of public lands. Most of these permits are used to authorize permittees to temporarily occupy or use structures constructed on public land until the BLM can arrange for removal of the structures or conveyance to the occupant. There are no leases or easements under Sec. 302 of FLPMA or airport leases in the planning area.

Only one R&PP lease exists within the area administered by the CdA FO. This 32-acre lease is held by the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation for the Cataldo Mission, a historic landmark and the oldest building in Idaho. R&PP transfers are discussed below under Land Tenure Adjustment.

Assertions of the right to build roads relating to R.S. 2477 are very controversial in many offices of the BLM. This statute allows roads to be constructed across public lands that are not reserved for other public purposes. However, R.S. 2477 has not been an issue within the planning area.

Public lands in the planning area provide opportunities for wind energy. A 2003 study by the BLM and US Department of Energy found several locations of medium-to-high wind energy potential, generally located on higher elevations (BLM and DOE 2003). These locations include Huckleberry Mountain, Gold Mountain, Widow Mountain, and St. Joe Baldy Mountain (Forssell 2005) (see Section 3.3.5, Renewable Energy). At this time, private companies have expressed no interest in developing these potential sites.

Overall, the trend in the issuance of land use authorizations is relatively constant. Currently, energy-related ROWs are given priority, but the CdA FO processes few of these types of ROWs. The 2003 update to the Western Utility Group study on ROW corridors proposed five corridors in the planning area but assigned medium to low priority to their designation. Based on observation, applications for road ROW grants in the planning area are related to timber values. When timber values are high there is an increase in requests to cross public lands and harvest timber on nearby private land, and when timber values are low there are fewer ROW applications because most landowners prefer to not harvest trees in a poor market.

Land Tenure Adjustment

Land tenure (or land ownership) adjustment refers to those actions that result in the disposal of BLM lands or the acquisition of nonfederal lands or interests.

The planning area was previously recognized as the Emerald Empire Planning Unit in the Emerald Empire Management Framework Plan (MFP), which the BLM approved in 1981 (BLM 1981). Management is based on the MFP and other related decision documents. Current planning guidance with respect to land ownership is provided by the Land Tenure Adjustment Plan (BLM 1989), an amendment to the MFP. This direction establishes land exchange as the predominant method of land ownership adjustment. It also establishes management areas, which are areas that BLM will retain or acquire land in, and adjustment areas, which are generally available for disposal. Management areas typically include the better-blocked BLM lands that meet the retention criteria but also may include areas in which there are high public values suitable for management

by BLM (such as Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA). The goal in management areas generally is to retain or enhance public land holdings within these zones. Lands outside these management areas, in the adjustment areas, are generally available for the full range of land ownership adjustment opportunities, including retention, exchange, sale, or transfer. Land ownership adjustment proposals in the planning area are analyzed in project-specific reviews.

The primary means of land ownership adjustment within the planning area has been through exchange. Twelve exchanges affecting federal or nonfederal lands within the planning area have been completed since 1981. The CdA FO has been using exchanges extensively to improve public land ownership patterns by generally disposing of small isolated tracts of public land with limited resource values and acquiring nonfederal land with higher public resource values adjacent to larger blocks of public land. Lands in the planning area have also been used in exchanges mandated by Congress.

During this same period, the CdA FO has completed eleven land purchases in support of activities in management areas and has acquired one parcel through donation.

The R&PP Act authorizes the transfer of public lands in addition to leases when it serves the public interest. The CdA FO completed three R&PP transfers since the approval of the Emerald Empire MFP. One transfer was to Kootenai County for expansion of a local park, one transfer was to the city of Post Falls for park expansion, and one transfer was to Shoshone Golf and Tennis Association for expansion of its golf course. No lands have been conveyed for agricultural entries under the Desert Land Act or Carey Act, nor have any lands been conveyed for airport grants, Indian allotments, or railroad grants.

The CdA FO has provided most of the in-lieu selection lands for the State of Idaho. The federal government owes these lands to the state from statehood. Since 1990, the state has received 91,519 acres of land from the federal government that were formerly public lands administered by the BLM in the planning area.

There have been 19 land sales since 1981 but only three since 1990. The purpose of most of the sales has been to resolve long-standing occupancy trespass situations in the CdA FO.

Table 3-29 lists land ownership adjustment actions for the planning area since the completion of the Emerald Empire MFP in 1981. Acreage figures are approximate.

Table 3-29 Types of Land Adjustment Actions Since 1990 (Not Legislated)			
Type of Action	Number	Acres Acquired	Acres Disposed
Land exchange	12	3,150	5,710
Purchase	11	683	0
Donation	1	43	0
R&PP	3	0	64
Sale	3	0	2
Total	30	3,876	5,776

Local governments and special interest groups have placed a high priority on the BLM's Coeur d'Alene Lake land acquisitions. Based on public input received during formulation of the District's Land Tenure Adjustment Plan, BLM's acquisition priorities around Coeur d'Alene Lake involve protection of wildlife/riparian habitat and recreational access. Kootenai County in particular is interested in maintaining and expanding recreation opportunities around the lake. Parties interested in land exchanges have viewed the

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BLM's scattered timberland in the planning area with great interest, and this timberland will probably continue to be the basis of land exchanges in the future. However, the rapidly escalating price of real estate in and around the BLM's priority acquisition areas may limit the amount of land tenure adjustment possible. The BLM and the Department of the Interior have increased their scrutiny of local BLM land exchange proposals. This review has greatly extended the processing time of exchanges, and the increased amount of time needed to complete an exchange has made land exchanges less interesting to private parties.

Access

For the purposes of this section, access refers to the physical ability and legal right of the public, agency personnel, and authorized users to reach public lands. The lands and realty program primarily assists in the acquisition of easements to provide for legal access where other programs have identified a need.

Access to public lands administered by the CdA FO is an issue of concern to both agency personnel and the public. The existing fragmented ownership pattern of BLM lands intermingled with private, state, and other federal lands complicates the access situation. While the CdA FO has made and continues to make progress in terms of improving access to public lands, there are still areas within the planning area that lack legal access. The 1981 Emerald Empire MFP provides planning guidance with respect to access. In accordance with guidance in this document, the CdA FO has been focusing its access acquisition efforts on the following:

- Larger blocks of public lands that are designated for retention in BLM ownership;
- Areas with important resource values;
- Areas where public demand for access is high; and
- Areas with substantial BLM investments.

Generally speaking, access is acquired from willing adjacent landowners on a case-by-case basis and as needs or opportunities arise.

The CdA FO uses the acquisition of road and trail easements as the primary means of obtaining legal access to public lands where it does not currently exist. There are three types of easements: exclusive easements, where the BLM acquires full public rights to the road in perpetuity and exclusively manages all other uses; nonexclusive easements, where the BLM acquires only the right to use the road in perpetuity but does not control other uses; and temporary easements, where the BLM acquires the right to use the road for only a fixed period. The CdA FO administers 30 exclusive easements, 36 nonexclusive easements, and 5 temporary easements, for a total of 71 easements. Since the completion of the Emerald Empire MFP in 1981, the CdA FO has been acquiring access-related easements at the average rate of six per year. Most of these easements are in support of the CdA FO's timber management program. When possible, emphasis for easement acquisition is on those roads or trails identified through a route analysis process.

Although used much less frequently than easement acquisition, the CdA FO uses land exchanges on occasion to acquire needed access to public lands. Access is typically just one of many benefits of these exchanges. The consolidation of BLM land ownership patterns by exchange has generally improved the access situation in the planning area. When disposing of BLM parcels containing roads or trails necessary for access to other public lands, the CdA FO protects these access routes by reserving them in the conveyance documents.

Because access needs within the planning area are relatively constant, there are no high priority areas for obtaining access. Timber sales have provided the majority of reasons for access, and recreational access of public lands has been a high priority.

Withdrawals

As used in the lands and realty program, a withdrawal is an act, designation, or public land order that requires public land to be withdrawn from the operation of the public land laws. The practical effect of a withdrawal is to close a parcel of land to mineral entry and mineral leasing.

The CdA FO uses three types of withdrawals. The first is a watershed protection withdrawal where public land in municipal watersheds is closed to mineral entry to prevent possible damage to public water supplies. These types of withdrawals are also used along rivers and lakes where there is either an energy-producing dam or the possibility of constructing an energy-producing dam. Public lands are also withdrawn to prevent development that would be inconsistent with water storage on the land (flooding). The two watershed protection withdrawals administered by the CdA FO are Sand Creek for the city of Sandpoint, and Rochat Creek for the town of St. Maries. The total acreage for these withdrawals is 4,703 acres.

The second withdrawal type is a power site withdrawal. Information regarding current power site withdrawals is incomplete, but current information indicates that the CdA FO administers three such withdrawals, involving a total of 1,437 acres.

The third type of withdrawal is miscellaneous. These withdrawals are for a variety of purposes but are usually to protect a BLM recreation site or other facility that would be adversely affected by mineral entry. The CdA FO administers two such withdrawals, involving a total of 253 acres.

The need for new withdrawals of public land within the planning area has been decreasing. Most BLM land with resources that need to be protected by withdrawals already has such protection in place. Consequently, there are no high priority areas for withdrawing lands.

Unauthorized Land Use

With the BLM's scattered land pattern, encroachments on public land occur. Trespass under the lands and realty program can be split into three separate categories:

- Unauthorized use;
- Unauthorized occupancy; and
- Unauthorized development.

Unauthorized use refers to activities that do not appreciably alter the physical character of the public land or vegetative resources. Some examples of unauthorized use include the abandonment of property or trash, enclosures, and use of existing roads and trails for purposes that require a ROW grant. Unauthorized occupancy refers to activities that result in full-time or part-time human occupancy or use. An example is the construction, placement, occupancy, or assertion of ownership of a facility or structure (e.g., cabin, house, natural shelter, or trailer). Unauthorized development means an activity that physically alters the character of the public lands or vegetative resources. Examples include cultivation of public lands and road or trail construction/realignment.

The scattered public land pattern in the planning area contributes to trespass problems, particularly where patented mining claims make it difficult to determine federal/private property lines. The CdA FO attempts to abate trespassing by prevention, detection, and resolution. In the lands and realty program, priority for resolving trespass in the planning area is accorded to those newly discovered ongoing uses, developments, or occupancies where resource damage is occurring and needs to be halted to prevent further environmental degradation. Lesser priority is accorded those historic trespass cases where little or no resource damage is

occurring. Realty trespass cases in this latter category are resolved as time permits. There have been 88 realty trespass cases resolved since 1990.

Trespass problems are anticipated to remain at current levels within the planning area. With the BLM's scattered land pattern, encroachments on public land will likely continue to occur. Currently, there are no high priority areas for resolving unauthorized uses.

3.4 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

This section is a description of the existing condition of special designation areas in the planning area. Special designations include ACECs, which may be RNAs or Outstanding Natural Areas (ONAs), WSAs, Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Trails, Backcountry Byways, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Historic and Scenic Trails, and Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas. Table 3-30 describes each of these types of special designations and defines each type of special designations found in the planning area. National Wild and Scenic Rivers (or river sections) are discussed in Section 3.4.1.

Table 3-30 Special Designations Descriptions

Designation	Description
Area of Critical Environmental Concern	<p>In an ACEC, special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (BLM 2005a). Acreage in CdA FO: 2,981.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hideaway Islands (76 acres in Boundary County) • Lund Creek (2,905 acres in Shoshone County)
Research Natural Area	<p>An RNA is an ACEC where natural processes are allowed to predominate and which is preserved for the primary purposes of research and education. Acreage in CdA FO: 2,981.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hideaway Islands (76 acres in Boundary County) • Lund Creek (2,905 acres in Shoshone County)
Outstanding Natural Area	<p>An ONA is an area with high scenic values that has been little altered by human impact. There are no ONAs in the planning area.</p>
Wilderness Study Areas*	<p>A WSA is an area designated by a federal land management agency as having wilderness characteristics, thus making it worthy of consideration by Congress for wilderness designation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selkirk Crest (720 acres in Bonner County) • Crystal Lake (9,027 acres in Shoshone County) • Grandmother Mountain (12,140 acres in Shoshone County).
National Wilderness Area	<p>A National Wilderness Area is designated by Congress and defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 as a place "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." There are no National Wilderness Areas in the planning area.</p>
Watchable Wildlife Viewing	<p>The Watchable Wildlife Areas program is a cooperative effort to foster the</p>

Table 3-30 Special Designations Descriptions

Designation	Description
Areas	<p>conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats by (1) providing enhanced opportunities for the public to enjoy wildlife, (2) promoting education about wildlife and habitat needs, (3) contributing to local economies, and (4) enhancing active public support for resource conservation.</p> <p><u>These areas include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wolf Lodge Bay (Lake Coeur d'Alene) ▪ Cougar Bay (Lake Coeur d'Alene) ▪ Gamlin Lake (Bonner County)
National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails	<p>The National Trail System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543) authorized creation of a national trail system composed of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails. There are no Scenic Trails in the planning area, but the area does include the following National Recreation Trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mineral Ridge (Lake Coeur d'Alene) ▪ Marble Creek Trail (Grandmother Mountain WSA)
Back Country Byways	<p>The Back Country Byways is a system of low-standard roads and trails that pass through public lands with high scenic or public interest value. There are no Back Country Byways in the planning area.</p>

* Acres shown do not match the Wilderness EIS due to improved mapping and land exchanges.

Locations and Current Conditions

ACEC/RNA

Hideaway Islands (76 acres) and Lund Creek (2,905 acres) comprise the two ACEC/RNAs in the planning area. Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA consists of two islands along the Kootenai River approximately six air miles east of Bonners Ferry. The east island has greater topographic relief and supports midsuccessional cottonwood stands with a significant amount of red-osier dogwood in the understory. The Idaho Conservation Data Center, part of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, ranks the black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood community type as "S1" in Idaho. An S1 rank is assigned to plant species or communities that are critically imperiled statewide (typically 5 or fewer occurrences or less than five percent of native range currently occupied by high quality examples of type) or especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. The west island is younger (geomorphically) and of lower relief, supporting early successional cottonwoods and willow stands, with the exception of a band of 20- to 30-year-old cottonwoods on the south side of the island. Sand and cobble bars on both islands are vegetated by pioneer species, such as coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), and three species of cottonwood: black cottonwood, narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), and eastern cottonwood (*P. deltoides*). Eastern cottonwood is an eastern US disjunct that is uncommon in Idaho.

At Hideaway Islands, flooding historically determined the islands' vegetative cover, but since the completion of the Libby Dam in 1972, flooding has been controlled. This change in hydrologic conditions has influenced

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the vegetation communities on the islands by promoting advancement toward a climax condition rather than maintaining the earlier stages of ecological succession associated with free-flowing systems. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) has gained a foothold on the upstream island, outcompeting native shrubs and herbs under some of the cottonwood trees. Some evidence of livestock trespass has been observed on the east island, apparently occurring during periods of low flow.

Lund Creek ACEC/RNA totals 2,905 acres and is approximately 15 air miles east of Clarkia, in the southeast corner of the Grandmother Mountain WSA. Lund Creek contains stands of mature mountain hemlock and communities dominated by subalpine fir and whitebark pine. The area also includes a number of aquatic features, such as Pinchot Marsh, Little Lost Lake, and a bog, marsh, streams, and waterfalls in the Lund Creek drainage.

Existing areas of special concern or important value that are unprotected, and where special designations should be considered, are identified in the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Nomination Evaluation Report (Appendix G) (BLM 2005g). The BLM found that 21 areas nominated for ACEC status met the relevance and importance criteria detailed in the report.

WSA/Wilderness

In the 1986 final environmental impact statement on wilderness study areas in north Idaho, the BLM made several recommendations regarding WSAs in the planning area. Those recommendations were to not designate the Crystal Lake WSA as wilderness, to designate the Selkirk Crest WSA for custodial timber management after seeing the results of USFS designation decisions for the adjoining lands, and to designate the Grandmother Mountain WSA as nonwilderness. There are no existing designated Wilderness Areas in the planning area. The WSAs are managed according to the BLM's Interim Management Policy, BLM Handbook 8500-1.

The Selkirk Crest WSA (Unit 61-1) contains 720 acres and is adjacent to the USFS Selkirk Crest roadless area #1-125, which contains approximately 97,960 acres. It lies near the Canadian border southwest of Porthill. It contains about 166 acres of marginally productive timberland, while areas of bare rock and brush cover are found in the upper reaches. The WSA is steep and heavily vegetated with a wide variety of species. Elevation ranges from near 1,800 feet to almost 4,500 feet at the USFS boundary. While most WSAs were required to meet a minimum 5,000-acre criterion, exceptions were made for areas that were contiguous to other USFS areas.

The 9,027-acre Crystal Lake WSA (Unit 61-10) is south of Cataldo and contains the headwaters of Latour Creek. Its namesake, Crystal Lake, is a five-acre glacial cirque lake that lies within the WSA and contains about 4,900 acres of commercial timberland. The WSA contains a landscape of varied character. Bare talus peaks descend sharply to Latour Creek, some 3,000 feet below Reeds Baldy, the highest peak in the unit. The slopes in the upper drainages are predominantly vegetated with a thin to moderately stocked mixed coniferous stand. The basin below Crystal Lake contains the site of a past fire and now supports a dense brush cover.

The Grandmother Mountain WSA (Unit 61-15) is adjacent to the USFS Grandmother Mountain roadless area. Since the original inventory of the WSA conducted in 1980, improved methods of acreage measurement (such as GIS) have changed the figures originally proposed. Current accurate acreage figures for Grandmother Mountain include 12,140 acres of BLM land. The adjoining USFS Grandmother Mountain roadless area contains an additional 22,347 acres of land, including 1,184 acres of private land.

The terrain of Grandmother Mountain WSA varies from heavily forested drainages to bare peaks. There are numerous small drainages and several high mountain lakes throughout. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet on

Widow Mountain to 4,600 feet in the Lund Creek drainage. The Grandmother Mountain WSA comprises 12,579 acres.

The continued designation of the Selkirk Crest WSA will be determined by the USFS. The other two WSAs await Congressional action.

Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas

The Wolf Lodge Bay wildlife viewing area is adjacent to Mineral Ridge. Various eagle perching areas are adjacent to the lake. The Cougar Bay wildlife viewing area is on the northwest shore of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Swans, eagles, osprey, heron, songbirds, geese, and numerous other waterfowl and migratory birds can be viewed in this area. The Gamlin Lake wildlife viewing area is just southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho. Waterfowl are visible around the lake. Migratory waterfowl are visible around the Lower Coeur d'Alene River wildlife viewing area.

National Trails

The Mineral Ridge NRT is a nonmotorized 3.3-mile self-guided nature trail used by local school districts for environmental education. It ascends and then follows a ridge separating Beauty and Wolf Lodge Bays on Coeur d'Alene Lake, affording numerous scenic views. The Marble Creek National Recreation Trails, portions of which are managed by BLM, include portions or all of five separate trails. Those trails under BLM ownership include Delaney Creek National Recreation Trail, which is composed of natural dirt and rock and is used for backpacking, hiking, and hunting (BLM 2005c), and Lookout Mountain National Recreation Trail, which is composed of natural dirt and rock and is used for backpacking, hiking, scenic viewing, and hunting (BLM 2005d). Lookout Mountain has an intermingled ownership and is jointly administered by the BLM and the USFS. Lookout Mountain Trail follows a high mountain ridge alternating between forested saddles and open, rocky mountaintops.

The trails are part of a 45-mile network that provides access to and through the Grandmother Mountain WSA. Portions or all of five separate trails were designated, including the following:

- Lookout Mountain Trail, 7 miles (5.5 miles under BLM ownership);
- Delaney Creek Trail, 4.25 miles (2.5 miles under BLM ownership);
- Marble Divide Trail, 1.25 miles;
- Gold Center Marble Creek Trail, 2.5 miles; and
- Marble Creek Trail, 11 miles.

Back Country Byways

There are no BLM back country byways in the planning area.

3.4.1 Wild and Scenic Rivers

No designated Wild and Scenic Rivers are currently managed by the BLM within the planning area. A 66.3-mile segment of the St. Joe River (Shoshone County) entirely within the St. Joe National Forest is the only WSR designation in the planning area. The designated segment is administered by the USFS. The BLM completed a wild and scenic river suitability study as part of the RMP process. The purpose of the suitability study was to determine if eligible segments met the suitability criteria for inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). A report on this study can be found in Appendix J. Table 3-31 contains criteria for classifying wild and scenic rivers.

Table 3-31 Classification of Wild and Scenic Rivers

Class	Criteria
Wild	Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, generally inaccessible, except by trail (no roads), with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive, and having unpolluted waters.
Scenic	Rivers having the same characteristics as “wild” but accessible in places by roads. These rivers are usually more developed than wild rivers and less developed than recreational rivers.
Recreational	Rivers or sections of rivers that remain largely natural in appearance but are readily accessible by road or railroad, may have some development along the shoreline, and may have had some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Eligible segments are described in Table 3-32, below.

Table 3-32 Eligible River Segments Studied for Wild and Scenic River Suitability

Segment Name	Location
Kootenai River	14-mile segment from the Idaho and Montana border to the downstream end of the Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC. Classification: Recreational.
Little North Fork Clearwater River	3.61-mile segment from Fish Lake downstream to the BLM and USFS boundary immediately downstream of the confluence with Lost Lake Creek. Classification: Wild (upstream portion), Recreational (downstream portion).
Lost Lake Creek	3.43-mile segment, including entire stream from Lost Lake downstream to the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Classification: Wild (upstream portion), Scenic (downstream portion).
Little Lost Lake Creek	3.09-mile segment, including entire stream from Little Lost Lake downstream to the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Classification: Wild.
Lund Creek	3.88-mile segment, including entire stream from source downstream to the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Classification: Wild.

3.5 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

3.5.1 Tribal Interests

Several Native American tribes have interests in, and historical ties to, the planning area, including the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, the Kalispel Tribe, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, and the Kootenai Tribe.

Coeur d’Alene Tribe

The Coeur d’Alene Reservation is in Benewah and Kootenai Counties in northern Idaho, and includes the Coeur d’Alene and St. Joe Rivers, as well as Lake Coeur d’Alene (Coeur d’Alene Tribe 2004). Principal settlements on the reservation include Benewah, DeSmet, Plummer, Tensed, and Worley. The Tribe collectively owns approximately 69,000 acres of land, much of which is interspersed with individually allotted lands and non-Indian lands. Most of the land (247,540 acres) within the Coeur d’Alene Reservation is privately owned. Tribal headquarters are in Plummer (Economic Development Center 2004).

The reservation lies partially within National Forest land in a region where the timber industry has been traditionally prominent. At present, a limited amount of timber harvesting continues on tribal lands. Although a considerable number of tribal members find employment in this industry, many are also employed by non-tribal enterprises. Pacific Crown Timber Products is the largest private employer of tribal members within this domain (Economic Development Center 2004).

Kootenai Tribe

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho is one of the seven member bands of the Kootenai Nation. The tribe's reservation is a few miles west of Bonners Ferry in Boundary County on the Kootenai River. Most reservation land lies on the wide valley floor of the river (US EPA 2004b). The reservation has 250 acres in federal trust, with approximately 2,000 additional acres allotted to individual tribal members. Tribal headquarters are three miles west of Bonner's Ferry.

Kalispel Tribe

The Kalispel Indian Reservation is approximately 55 miles north of Spokane in Pend Oreille County. The 4,600-acre reservation is located along approximately ten miles of the Pend Oreille River. The acreage is a narrow strip along the east bank of the river near Usk, Washington. The Tribe also has 240 acres of reservation land on the west bank of the river, north of Cusick, Washington. Tribal population is approximately 280.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe

The 1,244,000-acre Flathead Reservation, located in western Montana, is the home of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe. The tribe consists of a confederation of the Salish and Pend Oreille tribes along with the Kootenai Tribe and is headquartered in Pablo, Montana.

Traditional Uses

Because the BLM manages portions of the ceded lands that are within the traditional use areas of the tribes, it has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for Indian tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights. Members of the tribes exercise their hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on federal lands outside the boundaries of the reservation. Currently, Native American tribes do not depend on commodity resources from lands managed by the CdA FO for their economic livelihood, but they do use resources on BLM public lands for subsistence and cultural purposes. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands within the planning area include fishing for resident game fish, hunting large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. Currently, there is little specific information available on the exact species sought or locations used by Native Americans exercising their treaty rights within planning area boundaries.

Trends in the planning area since the signing of treaties and agreements have changed the availability of natural and cultural resources that were historically used by the tribes in exercising their treaty rights. Mineral extraction, timber harvest, farming, ranching, construction, introduction of exotic species, declines in water quality, and vehicle use have led to a general decline in fish, game, and plant species. The loss of resources and visual intrusions on locations can have a detrimental effect on Native American socio-cultural activities associated with plant, fish, or animal procurement. More recent trends include a greater awareness among managers of treaty rights issues and commitment to collaborating with the tribes.

3.5.2 Public Safety

Public Safety

Public safety includes the management actions of the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) programs. The BLM's AML programs have been very active in addressing hazardous materials and mining-related programs in the Coeur d'Alene District (Table 3-33). AML management deals largely with identifying past mining sites, checking for potential problems, and addressing water quality issues at the sites. Hazardous materials represent a significant risk to public safety, human health, and the environment, and as such are important issues that warrant the attention of the BLM management when hazardous materials or wastes are present on its lands. Hazardous materials management also involves the prevention of illegal hazardous materials actions on public lands; the proper use, authorization, permitting, and regulation of hazardous materials on public lands; and the timely, efficient, and safe response to hazardous materials incidences on public lands.

Table 3-33 Activities and Associated Hazardous Materials Management

Potential Hazard	Examples
Hazardous materials associated with historic and active mine operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine water drainage • Heavy metals, such as tailings, mill sites, and rock dumps • Explosives, such as dynamite, ammonium nitrate, caps, and boosters • Chemicals associated with processing ore or used in laboratories, such as cyanide • Asbestos
Illegal dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorized waste dumps • Barrels or other containers with hazardous substances dumped on public land
Illegal activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug labs • Wire burn sites
Spillage of hazardous materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumped waste spills and residual materials • Materials spilled from overturned trucks or train cars • Weed spray equipment spills
Oil and gas activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogen sulfide gas • Oil spills • Drilling mud waste
Facilities on public land either federal or private (under a right-of-way)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaky-storage tanks • Asbestos
Military operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft wreckage • Unexploded ordinance

Most of the hazard issues that occur under the jurisdiction of the CdA FO are associated with past mining activities and AMLs. Many actions to clean up mining contamination source and depositional areas, including riparian and wetland habitats, have been conducted in the Coeur d'Alene Basin since 1989. Various entities,

including federal and state agencies, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, mining companies, and Union Pacific Railroad, have been involved in these efforts (US EPA 2002). Watershed and stream restoration actions related to mining impacts are expected to continue near the present level or to decrease as cleanup of the priority sites is largely completed. Many of the BLM hazardous material incident responses address materials illegally disposed of on public lands, which often include drug wastes from illegal methamphetamine labs. Known locations of abandoned mines, hazardous materials, and impaired streams are shown on Maps #69 and #70 in Volume III.

The Coeur d'Alene River Basin is part of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983 (US EPA 1992, 2004), and there are extensive areas of public lands included within this Superfund facility. Coordination and cleanup efforts include activities related to the expanded Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site and other sites within the Coeur d'Alene basin, including certain tributaries such as Canyon Creek and Pine Creek. On average, the BLM undertakes three to nine site cleanup actions per year at former metals mining sites.

There are currently 128 AML sites that have been inventoried and entered into the BLM's Abandoned Mines Module database for the planning area. The vast majority of these sites (123) are in Shoshone County. The remaining five entered sites are in Kootenai and Bonner Counties. Despite having few AMLs, Kootenai County is affected by the upstream mining impacts in Shoshone County via the Coeur d'Alene River Basin drainage system. It is estimated that the planning area may contain as many as 100 additional sites that have not been inventoried.

Not all of the inventoried AML sites include conditions that are hazardous to humans or the environment, but many do. More than 70 mine openings have been posted with a BLM restriction/closure order due to the physical hazards that old mines can present. Other physical hazards that may be encountered at AML sites include basic trip and fall hazards from debris, possible tailings or highwall movement, unmarked or partially obscured mine shafts, dilapidated mine buildings and equipment, exposure to harmful chemicals and contaminated soils, presence of unused explosives, and open mine passages that have oxygen-depleted or toxic environments. The potential for injuries and deaths from these hazards continues to grow with the western population growth and recreational use of public lands. Therefore, sites easily accessed by the public are given first priority for implementing mitigation or closure measures.

When hazardous conditions are present at AML sites, the affected environment may include both on-site and off-site impacts. Mine tailings on AML sites may affect or preclude the growth of vegetation on-site and give rise to fugitive dust with hazardous heavy metal constituents when disturbed. Some AML sites have water quality issues from heavy metals laden water flowing out of the mines or leaching from the tailings or waste rock. These materials contribute undesirable heavy metal constituents, such as cadmium, lead, and zinc, to nearby tributaries, including the ones impacting the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. These heavy metal constituents adversely affect most aquatic species and also may adversely affect avian and mammalian species near such drainages via direct and indirect routes of intake. Cleanup actions have been taken at many AML and HMM sites to stabilize the surfaces of tailings piles, to treat contaminated mine discharge, and to clean up contaminated floodplains and mine waste.

Efforts have been made to stabilize tailings piles through removing tailings piles and deposits from the floodplains and through soil capping and seeding to promote vegetative cover. Minewater-discharge has been treated with bioreactors that sequester heavy metal constituents. Contaminated floodplains have been cleaned up primarily by excavating heavy metal contaminated sediments and mine tailings from floodplains and

moving the material to a repository site. The BLM's ongoing efforts to remediate mine waste sites and contaminated lands within its jurisdiction will result in increased environmental health and human safety.

Another major focus of the HMM program is response to the illicit dumping of hazardous and solid waste materials on BLM-administered land. Illicit dumping may occur anywhere, but generally it is concentrated around recreation areas and alongside roadways. Much of the illicit dumping activity within the planning area is intentional, small quantity waste dumping, with three to ten incidents per year. These dumping incidents often do not fit the specific category of hazardous waste dumping, but the dumped materials are normally screened for hazardous components before they are removed and appropriately disposed of. The types of materials include but are not limited to petroleum products, household wastes, paints, and biocides. The illegal dumping of solid waste makes up the bulk of the illicit dumping activity.

In recent years, the BLM increasingly responded to dumped methamphetamine lab wastes, or related drug wastes, on its administered lands, with two to four such incidents per year. Methamphetamine drug lab wastes frequently contain highly toxic chemicals, flammable materials, and potentially explosive materials. Drug paraphernalia may also be included in these wastes and present a skin puncture and disease-transmission hazard. Methamphetamine drug lab wastes present a direct health and safety hazard to individuals who may inadvertently come across them; these wastes also present a hazard to wildlife.

Hazardous materials may legitimately be brought onto BLM administered public land during weed control or resource development activities. The types of hazardous materials used for weed and insect control include herbicides and pesticides. The general types of hazardous materials that may be present during natural resource development include petroleum products (fuels and lubricants), solvents, surfactants, paints, explosives, batteries, acids, biocides, gases, antifreeze, and mineral products (mine waste, cement, and drilling materials). Another source of hazardous materials activity is from actions that involve rights-of-way, leases, and permits. Examples of these types of actions are pipelines (oil and gas), telecommunication sites, and transportation facilities.

3.5.3 Social and Economic Conditions

This section describes recent socioeconomic trends and the interdependence of socioeconomic factors with the management of the planning area. The planning area encompasses portions of Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah Counties. Because much of the tourism base for the planning area comes from the Spokane County, Washington demographic, economic data for that county are included as well. The economies of these counties are affected by public land uses within the planning area. Similarly, the demographics, social structure, and values within these counties influence the demand for recreation and other opportunities provided by the public lands. For these reasons, demographic, economic, and social data are presented for these five project area counties. Additional regional information also is provided, where applicable. The most recent data available at the time of the analysis are supplied for each topic.

Socioeconomic resources include population, housing, employment, income and earnings, and safety risks to children and schools. Population is the number of residents in the area and the recent change in population growth. Housing includes numbers of units, ownership, and vacancy rate. Employment data take into account labor sectors, labor force, and statistics on unemployment. Income information is provided as an annual total by county and as per capita income, and earnings by sector group provides a measure of the relative distribution of income among broad industry groups. Potential disproportionate risks to children are identified, in accordance with Executive Order 13045 (Executive Order 13045, 62 FR 19885), and school enrollment, an important consideration in assessing the effects of potential growth, is described for each of

the planning area counties. Each of these socioeconomic characteristics is discussed below, followed by a summary of the relationship between lands within the planning area and the local socioeconomic setting.

Population

Idaho's population has risen 28.5 percent in the last decade, while the population of the planning area has grown an average of 12.8 percent (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004). Between 1990 and 2000, approximately 48,700 people moved into Idaho from other states, while another 15,300 people immigrated from foreign countries, resulting in an increase of nearly 64,000 newcomers (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education 2003). Directly adjacent and west of the planning area are Spokane County and the city of Spokane, Washington. Many recreational visitors to the planning area come from the Spokane area.

Table 3-34 displays population trends from 1990 to 2000 and percent change over the 10-year period in the five counties analyzed. The two largest county populations, in Kootenai and Bonner Counties, totaled 108,685 and 36,835, in 2000, and represent increases of 55.7 percent and 38.4 percent from their 1990 populations. The growth in both of these counties over the 10-year period exceeded the state average of 28.5 percent. Over this decade, the largest percentage change in population (a 55.7 percent increase) occurred in Kootenai County, in which the cities of Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls are located. The lowest percentage change occurred in Shoshone County (a 1.1 percent decrease), in which the cities of Wallace and Kellogg are located. This lack of expansion can be attributed to the setback of the Bunker and Sunshine Mines, as well as the slow momentum in developing tourism to replace the lost mining and logging jobs over the last decade (Idaho Panhandle National Forests 2005). This economic setback has resulted in a net loss of younger families, which has been offset by immigration of retirees and workers commuting to the Coeur d'Alene area (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004). Projected population changes are shown in Table 3-35.

Table 3-34 County Population Estimates and Components of Change 1990-2000

County	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	1990-2000 Percent Change	Median Age (2000)
Benewah	7,937	9,171	1,234	15.5%	39.2
Bonner	26,622	36,835	10,213	38.4%	40.8
Boundary	8,332	9,871	1,539	18.5%	38.3
Kootenai	69,795	108,685	38,890	55.7%	36.1
Shoshone	13,931	13,771	-168	-1.1%	41.8
Planning Area	126,617	178,333	51,708	40.8%	39.2
Idaho	1,273,855	1,273,593	368,417	28.5%	33.2

Source: US Census Bureau 2004; Real Estate Center 2003 (utilizing US Census Bureau data)

Note: Decade years represent April 1 Census data, not mid-year estimates.

Table 3-35 County Population Projections

County	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2000-2020 Change	2000-2020 Percent Change
Benewah	9,171	9,043	9,647	10,304	11,061	1,890	20.6%
Bonner	36,835	40,133	43,528	47,167	51,027	14,192	38.5%
Boundary	9,871	10,755	11,665	12,640	13,674	3,803	38.5%
Kootenai	108,685	118,417	128,433	139,169	150,561	41,876	38.5%
Shoshone	13,771	14,554	15,297	16,046	16,788	3,017	21.9%
Spokane	417,939	441,068	466,417	496,981	529,958	112,019	26.8%
Planning Area	178,333	192,902	208,570	225,326	243,111	64,778	36.3%
Idaho	1,273,855	1,386,489	1,497,548	1,609,314	1,722,954	449,099	35.3%

Source: US EPA 2004a

Housing

Table 3-36 shows housing occupancy type and vacancy for the five counties of the planning area in 1990 and 2000. In the decade between those two years, most counties, with the exception of Benewah and Shoshone, experienced an increase of above 26 percent in total number of housing units. Kootenai County had the largest increase (45.8 percent) in the number of housing units, while the number of housing units in Benewah County decreased by 4.2 percent. The growth in the number of housing units in Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties occurred as a result of population growth. All counties individually, and as an average, experienced a lower percentage increase in the number of housing units than did the state, which experienced an increase of 27.7 percent.

In 2000, Shoshone and Bonner Counties had the highest vacancy rate (4.2 percent and 2.4 percent), and Benewah and Boundary Counties had the lowest vacancy rate (both 1.8 percent). In general, the average vacancy rate for the planning area in 2000 was 2.5 percent, with vacancy rates declining in Benewah County between 1990 and 2000, and increasing or remaining the same in the other planning area counties. State vacancy rates also increased or continued to be stable over the decade.

Table 3-36 County Housing Estimates 1990-2000

County	1990			2000			Housing Units Percent Change
	Housing Units	Vacancy Rate	Persons per Household	Housing Units	Vacancy Rate	Persons per Household	
Benewah	3,731	2.7%	2.63	4,238	1.8%	2.52	-4.2%
Bonner	15,152	2.4%	2.58	19,646	2.4%	2.49	29.7%
Boundary	3,242	1.5%	2.78	4,095	1.8%	2.61	26.3%
Kootenai	31,964	1.7%	2.57	46,607	2.2%	2.60	45.8%
Shoshone	6,923	2.0%	2.42	7,057	4.2%	2.30	1.9%
Planning Area	61,012	2.1%	2.60	81,643	2.5%	2.50	19.9%
Idaho	413,327	2.0%	2.73	527,824	2.2%	2.69	27.7%

Source: Idaho Department of Finance 2002; US Census Bureau 2004

Employment and Economy

Table 3-37 shows employment data for all planning area counties in 2000. The two most populous counties, Kootenai and Bonner, had unemployment rates of 7.8 and 7.3 percent, while, on average, the planning area counties had an unemployment rate of approximately 10.2 percent, higher than the state average of 5.8 percent. Benewah, Shoshone, and Boundary Counties, which had the highest unemployment rates in the planning area in 2000, demonstrate seasonal employment patterns due to the effects of employment in fields related to the agriculture and timber industry (Idaho Commerce and Consulting 2004).

Table 3-37 County Employment Statistics (2000)

County	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Benewah	3,472	562	13.9%
Bonner	15,890	1,244	7.3 %
Boundary	3,875	431	10.0%
Kootenai	50,162	4,217	7.8%
Shoshone	5,377	718	11.8%
Planning Area	78,776	7,172	10.2%
Idaho	599,453	36,784	5.8 %

Source: US Census 2004; Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004

As shown in Table 3-38, between 1990 and 2000, the sector with the greatest percentage increase in employment (for all counties in the planning area) was the services sector (99.3 percent). After services, the highest percentage of employment growth in the five-county area occurred in the construction (98.1 percent) and transportation/utilities (94.3 percent) sectors.

Over the 10-year period, employment in the other industry sectors, finance/insurance/real estate (53.4 percent), public administration (33.9 percent), and trade (22.2 percent), showed a moderate increase. The agriculture/forestry/fishing and hunting/mining sectors showed a decline in employment over the 10-year period of 15.7 percent and 0.81 percent, respectively, which may be attributed to changes in the timber harvesting and lumber production industry throughout Idaho. Timber harvesting and lumber production have always been important components of northern Idaho's economy. Thirty-one mills closed throughout Idaho in the early 1990s and accounted for a loss of 1,731 jobs state-wide (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004).

Within the planning area, Benewah County, whose economy remains heavily dependent on forest products, has only 45 jobs in manufacturing outside of the forest products industry. When the forest products industries downsized between 1998 and 2002 and the Rayonier Mill in Plummer closed, the county became vulnerable to high unemployment. However, a new mill using small-dimension logs was opened by Plummer Forest Products in 2002, creating 70 jobs. Boundary County experienced successful forest products operations in the early and mid-1990s, but this trend slowed during the latter part of the 1990s, and the county experienced an economic blow when two of the county's largest mills closed, leaving 140 people unemployed. Since then, employment in other industries has offset this job loss. Bonner County, too, benefits from the employment of 900 people in the wood products manufacturing industry, as well as from employment in the agriculture industry, which increased when Anheuser-Busch developed Mountain Farms, a large hops, ornamental tree, and Christmas tree farm, in 1981 (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004).

Table 3-38 County Employment by Industry Sector and Average Sector Growth

Sector (Total Percent Change)	Benewah County	Bonner County	Boundary County	Kootenai County	Shoshone County	Total Planning Area
Mining* (N/A)						
1990	24	41	4	219	1,568	1,856
2000	(D)	95	(D)	210	754	N/A
% change		131		-4	-52	
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing and Hunting/Mining (-15.7%)						
1990 (including mining*)	298	651	472	1,385	1,678	4,484
2000	344	872	431	1,333	866	3,779
Construction (98.1%)						
1990	136	765	166	2,613	326	4,006
2000	188	1,525	282	5,525	414	7,934
Manufacturing (-0.81%)						
1990	883	2,339	574	5,313	336	9,445
2000	530	2,186	558	5,772	323	9,369
Transportation/Utilities (94.3%)						
1990	200	537	162	1,727	226	2,852
2000	206	1,219	277	3,497	343	5,542
Trade (22.2%)						
1990	518	2,263	526	6,908	1,054	11,269
2000	511	2,737	569	9,166	790	13,773
Finance/Insurance/ Real Estate (53.4%)						
1990	69	505	106	1,631	165	2,476
2000	149	580	122	2,782	166	3,799
Services (99.3%)						
1990	804	2,945	868	9,624	1,505	15,746
2000	1,295	6,231	1,452	20,094	2,304	31,376
Public Administration (33.9%)						
1990	136	456	171	1,334	306	2,403
2000	248	554	184	1,993	238	3,217

Source: BEA 2004; US Census Bureau 2004; Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004

Note: (D) indicates fewer than 10 jobs or disclosed but confidential information.

*Mining was accounted for as a separate sector in the 1990 census; in the 2000 census, mining was accounted for in combination with the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors.

In addition, mining, also a historically important industry within the planning area, underwent significant changes. During the past decade and through to the present, the mining industry in the planning area has trended toward a decrease in the number of operations. However, the silver mining industry in Shoshone County has maintained a significant presence within the local economy due to high silver prices. Following the closure of the Sunshine Mine and the layoff of 150 people from the Lucky Friday Mine in 2001, there has been a substantial decline in mining industry employment. Employment in the mining industry in the planning area declined from 4,200 people in 1981 to its present employment of 380 people. Currently, the Lucky Friday Mine employs 140 people, and the Galena Mine employs 160 people (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004).

In 2000, the five counties in the planning area followed a similar employment pattern within most industry sectors (BEA 2004). Overall, Boundary, Benewah, and Shoshone Counties had the greatest employment in natural resource-related industries, with 11 percent, 8 percent, and 8 percent, respectively; and Bonner and Kootenai Counties had the lowest natural resource-related employment, with 2 percent and 1 percent, respectively (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004).

Income and Earnings

As shown in Table 3-39, in 2000, per capita personal incomes for the planning area counties remained below the state average of \$17,841, with an average increase of 56.6 percent since 1990. Overall, Kootenai County had the highest per capita income (\$18,420), and Boundary County had the lowest (\$14,636) in 2000 (BEA 2004).

Bonner County experienced the most significant growth in per capita income: a 64.0 percent increase from \$10,527 in 1990 to \$17,263 in 2000. Kootenai County experienced the lowest percentage growth between 1990 and 2000 (49.5 percent). In 2000, the average per capita income growth level in the planning area counties (56.6 percent) was well above the state level (12.5 percent).

Table 3-39 Per Capita Incomes

County	1990	2000	Percent Change
Benewah	\$9,921	\$15,285	54.1%
Bonner	\$10,527	\$17,263	64.0%
Boundary	\$9,054	\$14,636	61.7%
Kootenai	\$12,330	\$18,430	49.5%
Shoshone	\$10,373	\$15,934	53.6%
Planning Area	\$10,441	\$16,310	56.6%
Idaho	\$15,858	\$17,841	12.5%

Note: Figures calculated without taking into account the inflation rate.

Source: BEA 2004; US Census Bureau 2004

In 2000, nonfarm industries had the highest earnings in all counties. Between 1990 and 2000 Kootenai, Bonner, and Boundary Counties experienced the largest increases in nonfarm earnings (57.6 percent, 50.5 percent, and 47.5 percent, respectively). Between 1990 and 2000, farm earnings decreased significantly in Kootenai and Benewah Counties, by 91.1 and 37.5 percent. Shoshone County had the largest increase (58.1 percent), although total farm earnings remained negative (BEA 2004). Overall, this trend indicates a decrease in farm and agriculture-related earnings within the last decade, which has led to the growth of employment services and amenity-based industries within the planning area.

Protection of Children and Schools

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (Executive Order 13045, 62 FR 19885) states that each federal agency shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks. Environmental health risks and safety risks mean risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come into contact with or to ingest.

Hazardous materials associated with historic and active mine operations in Shoshone County have been transported to and deposited along the Lower Coeur d'Alene River and its associated lakes, floodplain, and wetlands. An extensive amount of the contamination occurs on BLM public lands within the Coeur d'Alene basin and is part of the expanded Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site. Hazardous waste materials represent a significant risk to public safety and human health, particularly children. The BLM's current Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program interfaces with the BLM's Hazardous Materials Management Program to clean up, remediate, and monitor such hazardous waste on public land.

3. Affected Environment

Approximately 27.1 percent of the population of Kootenai County and 25.5 percent of Bonner County is under 18 years of age. Similar percentages of children reside in the other counties in the planning area: 22.9 percent in Shoshone County, 26.9 percent in Benewah County, and 29.2 percent in Boundary County (US Census Bureau 2004).

Thirteen school districts serve all counties in the planning area. The 84 schools within these school districts had a total enrollment in the 2002-2003 school year of 29,889 students. Of the five counties, Kootenai and Bonner Counties had the highest K-12 student enrollment, with 18,765 and 5,662 students. Boundary and Benewah Counties had the smallest K-12 student enrollment, with 1,648 and 1,655 students. Kootenai County has the greatest number of schools, most of which are in Coeur d'Alene, with twenty-one elementary schools, five junior high schools (grades 8 and 9), two junior-senior high schools, four high schools (grades 10 through twelve), and six alternative/other schools (e.g., charter schools [kindergarten through sixth grade], detention centers, and alternative education schools) (National Center for Education Statistics 2004).

Economic Influence of BLM-Managed Lands

Local economies realize direct and indirect benefits from a variety of activities on public lands, including recreation and the processing and harvesting of natural resources (i.e., timber, minerals, and forage). The agricultural, hunting, forestry, and fishing sectors (which are industries that use BLM-managed lands) have shown increases in employment due to an increase in activity (US Forest Service 2003). In addition, the federal government redirects revenues collected from public lands back to the states in which they were collected.

The BLM collects revenues from recreational and commercial activities that take place on the nearly 12 million acres of BLM-managed lands in Idaho. These revenues are collected from facility fees (e.g., campgrounds), BLM recreation permits (i.e., special, competitive, organized group activity, and event use permits), timber sales, mining leases and mineral revenues, and grazing fees. Table 3-40 presents collections received from specific activities on Idaho BLM-managed lands in 2002.

Table 3-40 Total Federal Collections from Idaho BLM-Managed Land and Minerals (2002)

Activity	Collection
Recreation and use fees	\$433,676
Grazing fees	\$1,367,092
Timber receipts, public domain	\$612,510
Mining claim holding fees and service charges	\$791,900
Mineral royalties, rents, and bonuses	\$7,874,520
Miscellaneous receipts	\$513,004

Source: BLM 2004b

More than \$15 million dollars in annual revenues are returned to the American people (BLM 2004b) and are reinvested in the state's public lands. In 2002, the BLM invested close to \$50 million in Idaho public lands (BLM 2004b). Investments are made in the management of land and resources, land acquisition, range improvements, construction and access, central hazardous materials fund, and wildfire preparedness and operations. The ways that recreational and commercial sectors of public lands influence local economies are discussed below.

Recreation Sector

Growth and expansion in Idaho's tourism and recreation industry have been a significant factor in Idaho's economy. Tourism is the state's third largest industry, and in 1998 tourists and visitors spent an estimated \$1.7 billion, accounting for approximately \$134 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues (Business Enterprise for Sustainable Travel [BEST] 2001) and six percent of the state's \$29 billion in gross revenues for 1998 (Idaho Game Fishery 2001). These revenues, in turn, created more jobs and income for Idaho citizens (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004).

Within the state, tourism-related jobs accounted for 28.4 percent of total tourism-related employment. In 2001, recreation and tourism employed approximately 7,752 workers in the planning area. Of total visitors, the percent of nonresident visitors traveling to Idaho was estimated to be 13 percent in the summer, 11 percent in the fall, 8 percent in the winter, and 13 percent in the spring (Idaho Game Fishery 2001).

Recreation-related visits to Idaho are estimated to continue to increase at an annual rate of one to four percent. Population growth, as well as an increase in the number of visitors per year to Idaho, has created a rising demand for recreation opportunities. In 2002, the Outdoor Industry Association's State of Affairs ranked Idaho as the number one state in the nation for recreation, with 86.8 percent of residents participating in outdoor activities (Outdoor Industry Association 2002). Recreation and visits to natural and cultural areas accounted for 48 percent of tourist revenues (Idaho Game Fishery 2001).

Visitors attached the highest importance rating to the experience of obtaining environmental awareness and managing for environmental benefits. In addition, remote and more primitive recreation opportunities were favored by the greatest percentage of visitors (University of Idaho 2000). The most common and most desired activities on BLM lands were fishing, hiking, camping, photography, wildlife/bird observation, picnicking, hunting, and off-highway vehicle use. BLM recreation areas are most highly valued for viewing scenery, experiencing nature, escaping crowds and stress, being physically active, experiencing quiet and solitude, providing a sense of discovery, and being with friends (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004).

Forestry Sector

Although 41 percent of Idaho is forested, only a fraction of that area is administered by the BLM CdA FO and used for timber harvest. Forestry within the planning area is more prevalent on US Forest Service lands within the planning area and includes the surrounding Coeur d'Alene National Forest, Kaniksu National Forest, and St. Joe National Forest. Approximately 88 percent of all public lands managed by the CdA FO are forested lands. Approximately 58 percent of the public lands (or 66 percent of the forested lands) managed by the CdA FO are available for forest woodland treatments.

BLM Forest/Fuels Stewardship Program

Stewardship is a contracting tool that authorizes the BLM and the US Forest Service to exchange goods for services (Section 323 of Public Law 108-7 [Title 16 United States Code Section 2104, as revised]). This is accomplished by entering into stewardship projects (by contract or agreement) with private persons or public or private entities to perform services that achieve public land management goals that meet local and rural community needs. Stewardship contracting involves caring for the land through broad-based community public and community involvement.

Mining Sector

The Coeur d'Alene Mining District is one of the premier mining districts in the world, based on metal production and value of the product. The district stretches over 22 miles in length from Mullan on the east to Smelterville on the west along the south fork of Coeur d'Alene River. Silver is the primary commodity produced in the Silver Valley, which has enabled the Coeur d'Alene Mining District to become the largest

silver district in the world, with over one billion ounces recorded. Large contiguous blocks of BLM land covering several thousand acres surround the major operating mines and are intermingled with the extensive patented land at the mine sites. The most important gold district in the planning area is the Murray Mining District in east-central Shoshone County, which covers over 500 square miles.

Livestock Grazing/Rangeland Management

The CdA FO has allocated a total of 426 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), each of which consists of a cow or a cow and a calf; nine allotments are actively grazed by approximately four livestock operators in the planning area. In addition, there are five vacant allotments, with 157 AUMs that are currently not being leased. The grazing allotments vary in size from less than 9 acres up to 18,838 acres. Within the planning area, 404 AUMs are allocated for cattle, 22 for horses, and none for sheep.

3.5.4 Environmental Justice

This section addresses specific topics related to environmental justice, as required by NEPA. Specifically, a discussion of issues related to environmental justice is presented in accordance with Executive Order 12898, and issues related to protection of children from environmental health risks are presented in accordance with Executive Order 13045.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, entitled Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations. This order requires that “each federal agency make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities, on minority populations and low-income populations” (Executive Order 12898, 59 FR 7629 [Section 1-201]). The following studies have been conducted to comply with the order:

- Gathered economic, racial, and demographic information generated to identify areas of low-income and high minority populations in and around the project area; and
- Assessed the alternatives for disproportionate impacts resulting from on-site activities associated with the proposed action.

The planning area includes Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties. Racial and ethnic data from 2000 for these counties and for the state have been compiled and are presented in Table 3-41. In 2000, the Native American/Alaska Aleut population formed the dominant ethnic group within the planning area, and the African American population composed the smallest. Benewah (8.9 percent) and Boundary Counties (2.0 percent) had the largest Native American/Alaska Aleut populations, and Bonner County had the lowest (0.9 percent). Benewah County’s percentage of Native American population was slightly above that of the state’s (7.9 percent).

Table 3-42 provides income statistics for counties of the planning area and Idaho. With the exception of Kootenai County, all counties have a lower per capita income and median household income than the state. Idaho’s statewide poverty rate (13.8 percent) exceeds the poverty rates of only one of the five planning area counties, Kootenai County (10.5 percent). Poverty rates in the other planning area counties ranged from 14.1 percent to 16.4 percent.

Table 3-41 Total Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity (2000)

County	White	Black, African American	Native American/ Alaska Aleut	Asian, Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Latino, Hispanic, Any Race
State of Idaho	91.0%	0.4%	1.4%	1.0%	6.3%	7.9%
Benewah	88.7%	0.1%	8.9%	0.4%	0.3%	1.5%
Bonner	96.6%	0.1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.4%	1.6%
Boundary	95.2%	0.2%	2.0%	0.7%	0.9%	3.4%
Kootenai	95.8%	0.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	2.3%
Shoshone	95.8%	0.1%	1.5%	0.3%	0.5%	1.9%
Planning Area Average Total	94.4%	0.1%	2.9%	0.5%	0.5%	2.1%

Note: Percentages for a given year do not add up to 100 because “hispanic” is an ethnicity category that includes all races and because people can select more than one race.

Source: US Census Bureau 2004

Table 3-42 County Income (2000) and Poverty Level (1990-2000)

County	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Percentage of Population Living in Poverty (2000)	Percentage of Population Living in Poverty (1990)
Benewah	\$31,571	\$15,285	14.1%	16.3%
Bonner	\$32,803	\$17,263	15.5%	15.6%
Boundary	\$31,250	\$14,636	15.7%	14.0%
Kootenai	\$37,754	\$18,430	10.5%	12.1%
Shoshone	\$28,535	\$15,934	16.4%	16.2%
Idaho	\$36,282	\$17,841	13.8%	16.3%

Source: US Census Bureau 2004

The US Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine which families are living in poverty. If a family's total income is less than its threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is living in poverty. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. For example, in 2000 the average estimated poverty threshold for an individual in the US was an annual income of \$8,787, and for a four-person household it was \$17,601. US Census Bureau estimates indicate that approximately 10.5 to 16.4 percent of county populations in the planning area were below the poverty line in 2000. The percentages in Shoshone (16.4 percent), Boundary (15.7 percent), Bonner (15.5 percent), and Benewah (14.1 percent) Counties exceeded the state average of 13.8 percent (US Census Bureau 2004). While Benewah, Bonner, and Kootenai Counties displayed lower poverty rate values in 2000 than in 1990, Boundary and Shoshone Counties actually experienced a 1.7 and 0.2 percent increase in the number of individuals below the poverty level from 1990 levels (US Census Bureau 2004).

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 4 presents the likely direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human and natural environment in terms of environmental, social, and economic consequences that are projected to occur from implementing the alternatives presented in Chapter 2. Because the alternatives generally describe overall management emphasis, the environmental consequences are most often expressed in comparative general terms. This chapter is organized by topic, such as air quality, cultural resources, and water, similar to Chapter 3. Each topic area includes a method of analysis (indicators, methods, and assumptions), a summary of impacts common to all alternatives, followed by an analysis of impacts on the topic area from the four alternatives. In addition, impacts from the reasonable foreseeable development (RFD) scenarios for fluid mineral leasing are provided. Appendix H provides the RFDs for oil and gas and geothermal. Only management programs with impacts are discussed. Separate sections describing irretrievable or irreversible commitment of resources and unavoidable adverse impacts are presented at the end of the chapter.

Impact analyses and conclusions are based on interdisciplinary team knowledge of the resources and the planning area, information provided by experts in the BLM or in other agencies, and information contained in pertinent existing literature. The baseline used for the impact analysis is the current condition or situation, as described in Chapter 3, Affected Environment. Analysis assumptions have also been developed to help guide the determination of effects (see Analytical Assumptions). Because the draft RMP/EIS provides a broad management framework, the analysis in this chapter represents best estimates of impacts because exact locations of development or management are often unknown. Impacts are quantified to the extent practical with available data. In the absence of quantitative data, best professional judgment provides the basis for the impact analysis.

4.1.1 Analytical Assumptions

Several assumptions were made to facilitate the analysis of the projected impacts. These assumptions set guidelines and provide reasonably foreseeable projected levels of development that would occur within the planning area over the planning horizon. These assumptions should not be interpreted as constraining or redefining the management objectives and actions proposed for each alternative and described in Chapter 2. The following lists the general assumptions applicable to all resource categories. Any specific resource assumptions are provided in the methods of analysis subheading for that resource.

- The discussion of impacts is based on the best available data. Knowledge of the planning area and professional judgment, based on observation and analysis of conditions and responses in similar areas, are used to infer environmental impacts where data is limited;
- Acreage figures and other numbers used in the analyses are approximate projections for comparison and analytic purposes only. Readers should not infer that they reflect exact measurements or precise calculations;
- The approximate acres of forest vegetation to be treated under each alternative may vary by as much as ten percent;
- Since the potential for development of leasable minerals and geothermal resources within the planning area is so low, no environmental effects from such developments are anticipated;
- Recreational use of public lands will continue to increase, regardless of management direction. Recreation management designations (special recreation management areas) do not increase

visitations, rather they are responses to use that is already occurring, or is likely to occur in the future. The purpose of designations is to improve recreational experiences and mitigate impacts on other resources;

- Impacts on paleontological resources are not anticipated under any alternative. The geologic units present in the planning area generally have little fossil potential due to composition and great age;
- Actions undertaken by private persons and entities are assumed to be captured in the information made available by such agencies; and
- Mitigation measures developed during analysis of project-level implementation, not described in the alternatives, may reduce, minimize, or even eliminate impacts described in this chapter.

4.1.2 Types of Effects (Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative)

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts are considered in the effects analysis, consistent with direction provided in 40 CFR 1502.16. Direct impacts are caused by an action or implementation of an alternative and occur at the same time and place. Indirect impacts result from implementing an action or alternative but are usually later in time or removed in distance and are reasonably certain to occur. Direct and indirect impacts are described in terms of duration (short-term, long-term), intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, or major), and context (local, regional, national). Cumulative effects are the direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative's incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action (40 CFR Part 1508.7). Guidance for implementing NEPA (Public Law 91-190, 1970) requires that federal agencies identify the timeframe and geographic boundaries within which they will evaluate potential cumulative effects of an action and the specific past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions and events that will be analyzed. Effects of past actions and activities on resources are manifested in the current condition of the resource, which is described in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) for resources on BLM-administered lands. The list of actions used for cumulative impact analysis is provided below under Actions and Events That Make up the Cumulative Impact Scenario (Section 4.1.3.3).

Effects are quantified where possible, primarily by using mapping data through a geographical information system. In the absence of quantitative data, best professional judgment prevailed; impacts are sometimes described using ranges of potential impacts or in qualitative terms.

Terms referring to impact duration are used in the effects analysis. The standard definitions for these terms are as follows:

Localized Impact: The impact occurs in a specific site or area. When comparing changes to existing conditions, the impacts are detectable only in the localized area.

Short-Term Effect: The effect occurs only while the alternative is being implemented.

Long-Term Effect: The effect could occur for an extended period after the alternative has been implemented. The effect could last several years or more and could be beneficial or adverse.

Definitions for impact terms describing intensity and context are provided, when appropriate.

4.1.3 Cumulative Impacts

4.1.3.1 Cumulative Impact Assessment Methodology

This cumulative assessment is a programmatic, broadscale, qualitative assessment. The BLM makes both land use planning and implementation decisions. Examples of planning decisions include land use allocations, special designations, and determining which lands would be open or available for certain uses, such as offhighway vehicle use. Examples of implementation decisions include designating routes for motorized or nonmotorized vehicle travel, specific recreation facilities, and actions that may be taken without preparation of additional environmental documentation. Implementation decisions generally constitute BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed and are put into effect by developing implementation (project-specific or activity-level) plans.

The land use planning-level decisions that BLM will make regarding this RMP are programmatic decisions based on analysis that can only be conducted on a broad scale. Because of the broad scope, impact analysis of planning-level decisions is provisional with respect to project-specific activities. Subsequent planning and documentation for events and actions tiered to this RMP would generally be subject to a greater level of NEPA assessment and compliance. Such planning and documentation would pertain to project- and activity-level plans, and are more definitive than plans found in an RMP. A project-specific plan is typically prepared in detail for an individual action or event; whereas, an activity-level plan typically describes integrated, multiple use actions and events for an area within the planning area. Project-level plans (such as a stream restoration project) contain specific proposed actions, and site- or area-specific analysis is conducted. Activity plans are generally site-specific but have traditionally focused on single resource programs (such as mining). Activity plans may contain information that is as detailed or as specific as a project-level plan.

A cumulative impact analysis is based on numerous assumptions. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance limits cumulative impact analysis to important issues of national, regional, or local significance. Therefore, this cumulative impact assessment focuses only on actions and impacts that would potentially be significant. Because of the wide geographic scope of a cumulative impact assessment and the variety of activities assessed, cumulative impacts are commonly examined at a more qualitative and less detailed level than are direct and indirect impacts.

4.1.3.2 Actions and Events That Make Up the Cumulative Impact Scenario

For purposes of this EIS, the cumulative impact assessment timeframe considers information available from 1980 to 2005, except where additional past data are available. This encompasses a range within which data are generally reasonably available and forecasts can be reasonably made. Actions have only been considered to the extent possible. This analysis is provided for each resource and is general because decisions about other actions in the planning area would be made by many public and private entities, and the location, timing, and magnitude of these actions are not well known.

The geographic area of primary concern is composed of the five Idaho counties in which the Field Office is located: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties. Actions and events outside this five-county area, however, are also considered if they have the potential to affect resources with broad regional importance. Resources also have the potential to be affected differently by actions and events depending upon whether they occur on BLM-administered lands, or on other federal, state of Idaho, or private lands.

Public scoping, internal scoping, public documents, and data prepared by federal, state, and local government agencies are the primary information sources for past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions for consideration in cumulative impact analysis.

Scoping for this project did not identify any need to exhaustively list individual past actions or analyze, compare, or describe the environmental effects of individual past actions. However, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan revision EIS, once complete, could call for some additional specific actions. Given that much of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest planning area is within the CdA FO planning area, these actions are included in the cumulative assessment, as applicable.

Actions undertaken by private persons and entities are assumed to be captured in the information made available by such agencies. Specific actions and events with the potential to cumulatively affect the resources evaluated (e.g., water resources, vegetation) are identified in Table 4.1.3-1. Actions and events included in the cumulative impact analysis do not affect all resources equally. Some resources would be affected by several or all of the described activities, while others would be affected very little or not at all. Cumulative impact analyses are presented in this chapter by resource topic. The actions and events that make up the cumulative impact scenario (Table 4.1.3-1) were analyzed in conjunction with the impacts of each alternative to determine if they would have any additive or interactive effects on a particular resource.

The timeline for looking at future actions is 20 years, which will encompass all long-term effects from management actions proposed in this plan, while providing a wide scope to capture likely actions and events that could be considered in the future. Actions include those initiated by private, state, and federal entities, along with any environmental trends or conditions that could have a cumulative impact. The geographic scope for analysis may vary by resource type or use, but unless otherwise discussed, the area for consideration is generally northern Idaho, including lands within the Bureau of Land Management's adjacent CFO. The analysis is provided for each resource/program area and is general because decisions about other actions in the planning area would be made by many public and private entities, and the location, timing, and magnitude of these actions are not well known. Actions considered in the cumulative effects analysis include the following:

Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

Land tenure actions since 1981:

- have resulted in reducing the total area of public lands managed by the Coeur d'Alene Field Office from approximately 136,000 acres to 96,770 acres, a 29 percent decrease;
- have resulted in increasing the total area of public lands managed by the CFO from approximately 134,417 acres to 143,826 acres, a 7 percent increase;

Land tenure actions of various sizes are occurring and will continue to occur to consolidate BLM-administered lands and facilitate management.

Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. The Idaho Department of Lands, in conjunction with the BLM and other federal agencies, signed the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. The implementation plan focuses on fire prevention and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, and the promotion of community assistance in fire management (Idaho Department of Lands 2002). The CFO Fire Management Plan and the Coeur d'Alene Field Office Fire Management Plan were completed in 2004.

Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

During 2002, Idaho Department of Lands, in cooperation with federal agencies, disbursed \$1.9 million to wildland-urban interface projects and development of defensible space. Additional money was used for hazardous fuels reduction programs for several communities. Between 2002 and 2005, all planning area counties completed community wildfire protection plans that identify wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. The development of wildland fire mitigation plans allows counties and communities to determine their current fire hazard risk and to develop effective mitigation to minimize wildland-urban risks to persons and property. In addition, implementing community-based fuels reduction programs gives private landowners opportunities to work with public land management agencies to manage the wildland-urban interface.

Wildland fires:

- Have been suppressed over the past 100 years;
- Have burned low amounts of acreage in the Upper Columbia River Basin through the mid-1900s, with an increasing and noticeable trend in increased fire size between 1985 and 1995 (Forest Service and BLM 1997);
- Burned three million acres of virgin timberland in western Montana and northern Idaho including removing most vegetation in the eastern portion of the planning area, during the fire of 1910, the largest forest fire in US history (Idaho Forest Products Commission 2005);
- Have occurred and will continue to occur over time, and although the number of fire starts on BLM land is relatively small, land ownership in northern and northcentral Idaho is fragmented, which increases the potential for fires to cross administrative boundaries and affect BLM-managed lands; and
- Are suppressed and will continue to be suppressed to reduce the risk to resource values, private property, and human safety.

Fuels treatments, including prescribed fire, chemical and mechanical treatment, and seeding, have affected vegetation. Fuels treatments, including these methods and wildland fire use, is expected to increase, potentially affecting vegetation, soil, air, and water resources and reducing hazardous situations.

Natural cyclic insect and disease activity have persisted and will continue to persist in forested stands and rangelands, including bark beetle infestations and root rot in forested stands and grasshoppers in rangelands. Blister rust will continue to cause more mortality in natural western white pine.

Fish and Wildlife. Populations of some fish and wildlife species are declining in the Pacific Northwest. Declining wildlife and fish species will likely receive increased federal and state agency conservation efforts.

Listings under the Endangered Species Act. Some flora and fauna species have declined to the level where listing under the Endangered Species Act became necessary. The *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment*, which assesses guidelines for management of Canada Lynx on certain lands under the authority of the Forest Service and BLM, was completed in 2004. The final EIS (FEIS) and record of decision (ROD) will be issued in Summer 2006. Potential listings under the Endangered Species Act may occur in the foreseeable future if populations of selected species continue to decline; species that may have more potential for listing than other species may include federally listed candidate species and BLM sensitive species. Species, such as the bald eagle and gray wolf, will likely be delisted.

Livestock Grazing. Domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, and horses) have grazed and will continue to graze most of the area, including BLM-administered lands, Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Reservation lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and Clearwater, Payette, Nez Perce, and Idaho Panhandle National Forest lands.

Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

- Approximately one percent of forage comes from federal lands (BLM and Forest Service) in all counties of the planning area, except for Shoshone County, where approximately 12 percent of forage comes from federal lands (Forest Service and BLM 1997).
- In the Cottonwood planning area, approximately 24 percent of forage comes from federal lands in Adams County, 4 percent in Clearwater County, 6 percent in Idaho County, 8 percent in Latah County, and less than 1 percent in Lewis and Nez Perce Counties (Forest Service and BLM 1997).
- The North Idaho Range Management Program Plan was completed in 1982. In general, the number of livestock grazing permits/leases issued by the BLM in Idaho has gradually declined over the last several decades, while the number of authorized AUMs has increased slightly or remained roughly the same (Tetra Tech Inc. 2005a, 2005d).
- In the CFO, 67 percent of grazing allotments are small isolated tracts that are surrounded by large blocks of private lands, typically ranches. The BLM cannot control the season of use or the number of AUMs removed from public lands on isolated tracts;
- The BLM will continue to assess all livestock use allotments in Idaho with use of the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. These standards are designed to provide resource measures and guidance needed to ensure healthy, functional rangelands. Livestock use allotments are evaluated to determine if standards and guidelines are being met or if significant progress toward meeting them is being achieved. If standards are not being met, the BLM is required to make changes that would help achieve these standards in the future.

Timber has been and is harvested on:

- Private lands, for which data are unavailable, except for Bennett Lumber Products in the Cottonwood planning area, which harvested 82 MMBF (in 1999);
- State of Idaho lands within planning area harvested 85 MMBF (total from 1999-2004), and 67 MMBF planned in 2005. This harvest is from the 523,000 acres of endowment trust land managed by IDL within the planning area. State of Idaho lands within the Cottonwood planning area harvested 73 MMBF planned in 2006, 75 MMBF (total from 1999-2004), 45 MMBF planned in 2005, and 51 MMBF planned in 2006 (Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners 2005);
- BLM-administered lands: Coeur d'Alene Field Office has sold between 2 and 4 MMBF annually; the CFO has sold between 2 and 8 MMBF annually (1992-2004);
- Clearwater National Forest lands: 1,479 MMBF (total from 1980-2002) on 1.8 million acres;
- Payette National Forest lands: 1,301 MMBF (total from 1980-2004) on 2.3 million acres;
- Nez Perce National Forest lands: 1,387 MMBF (total from 1980-2004) on 2.2 million acres; and
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest lands: approximately 5,150 MMBF on 2.5 million acres (total from 1980-2003) (Forest Service 2003).

A sharp decline in timber sales from National Forests in Idaho has occurred over the past 15 years. Thirty-six mills permanently closed from 1989 to 2001, and many of them do not plan to reopen (Tetra Tech Inc. 2005a).

Based on current trends in the forestry industry, such as the ongoing temporary layoffs induced by mill closures, similar declines are expected to continue within counties of the Cottonwood planning area in the future unless the government allows for more harvesting on public lands or enacts greater protective measures

Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

on the timber industry as a whole (Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor 2004). Idaho County would suffer the greatest impact if the timber industry continues to decline. However, harvests from private timberlands have increased as a result (US Forest Service 2003).

Mineral development has occurred continuously in the region for over 140 years. Mining has occurred and continues to occur on BLM-administered lands, Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Reservation lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and Clearwater, Payette, and Nez Perce National Forest lands.

- In the planning area, the Coeur d'Alene Mining District stretches over 22 miles from Mullan on the east to Smelterville on the west along the south fork of Coeur d'Alene River. Silver is the primary commodity produced in the Silver Valley, which has made the Coeur d'Alene Mining District the largest silver district in the world, with over one billion ounces recorded.
- In the Coeur d'Alene Field Office, Benewah and Shoshone Counties' contribution of federal mineral revenues constitute a small percentage of Idaho's total and, since 2001, have diminished in royalty value, and thus returned payments, through 2004 (Tetra Tech Inc. 2005b).
- In the CFO, Clearwater, Idaho, and Latah Counties' contribution of federal mineral revenues constitute a small percentage of the state's total and, since 2001, have diminished in royalty value and, therefore, diminished returned payments, up through 2004 (Tetra Tech Inc. 2005c).
- In the Silver Valley of the planning area, two silver-based metal mines operate at a low level due to commodity prices.
- In the Cottonwood planning area, development of various industrial minerals, including sand, gravel, and aggregate, dimension stone, and limestone, is expected to continue to expand or contract in response to urban growth and construction in Idaho (Parker 2002).
- In the Silver Valley of the planning area, silver-based metal mines will operate at levels commensurate with commodity prices.
- In the Silver Valley of the planning area is the Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site, which is approximately 40 miles east of Coeur d'Alene. The site is 21 square miles including a 365-acre abandoned industrial complex of the former Bunker Hill Company lead/zinc mine smelter and five main communities, including the cities of Kellogg, Wardner, Smelterville, Page, and Pinehurst.

Minerals. In the Cottonwood and Coeur d'Alene Field Offices (on BLM-administered lands), the reasonably foreseeable development of mineral resources is as follows:

- Oil and Gas – Activity over the next 15 to 20 years would continue to be low, with the issuance of one or two geophysical surveys and perhaps the drilling of one or two exploratory holes. No field development is expected.
- Geothermal Resources – No geothermal resources have been identified, so the potential for developing geothermal resources is low. It is estimated that one or two exploratory wells would be plugged and abandoned.
- Solid Minerals – The potential for the occurrence of solid leasable minerals (both energy and nonenergy) has been rated as low to zero. No future activity is anticipated.
- Salable Mineral Resources – It is anticipated the need for salable minerals (primarily sand, gravel, and crushed rock) will increase due to the continued urbanization of northern Idaho. Decorative stone

Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

sales to individuals are expected to increase.

- Locatable Mineral Resources:
 - In the CFO, the major commodity of interest would continue to be gold. Both placer mining and the development of underground lode deposits are anticipated. There is a possibility that at least one chemical heap-leaching operation would be permitted on BLM land northwest of Elk City.
 - In the Coeur d'Alene Field Office, the major commodities of interest would continue to be the precious metals gold and silver. The other possible commodity of interest could be an uncommon variety of building stone; however, none have been identified in the planning area. No chemical heap-leaching operations are forecasted.
-

Road construction has occurred in association with timber harvesting and mining on BLM-administered lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and Clearwater, Payette, Nez Perce, and Idaho Panhandle National Forest lands. The rate of road building has recently slowed and stabilized due to less harvesting and mining activity on National Forest and BLM lands when compared with 20 to 30 years ago. This activity is expected to continue at the current steady rate on BLM-administered and National Forest lands; the future rate is unknown on private and State of Idaho lands.

Population:

- Idaho's population has risen approximately 29 percent between 1990 and 2000, while the population of the Cottonwood planning area has grown an average of 13 percent (Idaho Commerce and Labor 2004), and the population of the Coeur d'Alene Field Office planning area has grown an average of 41 percent (US Census Bureau 2004). In the Coeur d'Alene Field Office planning area, the fastest growing counties, Kootenai County (in which the cities of Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls are located) and Bonner County (in which the city of Sandpoint is located), have increased 56 percent and 38 percent, respectively (US Census Bureau 2004). The City of Spokane's population has grown 10 percent in the past decade.
 - In the Cottonwood planning area, population growth is projected to continue slowly: Between 2000 and 2020, the planning area population is anticipated to grow 11 percent, while Idaho's population is anticipated to grow 35 percent (US Census Bureau 2004).
 - In the Coeur d'Alene Field Office planning area, population is anticipated to grow 36 percent between 2000 and 2020, which is slightly more than the state's anticipated growth of 35 percent (US EPA 2004a). Counties containing the city of Sandpoint (Bonner County), Bonners Ferry (Boundary County), and greater Spokane metropolitan area (Kootenai County) are expected to grow the most, 39 percent, between 2000 and 2020.
-

Recreation has increased, and use patterns and motorized technology have changed.

- Recreation-related visits to Idaho are estimated to continue to increase at an annual rate of one to four percent (Tetra Tech Inc. 2005a, 2005d).
 - Recreational activities will continue to contribute to soil impacts.
 - An increase in the use of developed recreation sites and campgrounds is likely as the population increases.
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Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

Noxious weeds have invaded the CdA and Cottonwood planning areas and have been transported by wind, humans, machinery, and animals (pets, livestock, and wildlife). Cooperative weed management activities exist among the counties, private landowners, and government agencies. Noxious weed management has been addressed in the ROD for *The Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western State EIS*, completed in 1991, and *The Coeur d'Alene District Programmatic Noxious Weed Control Decision*, completed in 1994. However, noxious weed invasion is increasing and will continue, potentially increasing treatment efforts.

Tribal Coordination. Coordination with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Confederated Salish, and Kootenai Tribe in Montana has ensured and will continue to ensure that land management decisions and activities do not affect treaty rights and tribal interests.

Clean Air Act. US EPA is likely to set PM_{2.5} standards under the Clean Air Act. Air quality in the Cottonwood and Couer d'Alene planning areas is seasonally affected by agricultural field burning and wildland fires.

Water Quality. Human activities, such as timber harvesting, livestock grazing, agriculture, OHV use, and mining (especially in the Silver Valley within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office planning area) have contributed to water quality limited streams and will continue to contribute to poor water quality in some streams.

State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has established Total Maximum Daily Loads for some 303(d) water quality limited streams in the planning areas (in 2000, 2004, and 2005). Total Maximum Daily Loads for the remaining 303(d) water quality limited streams in the planning areas will be established by 2007. The BLM has limited opportunity to significantly improve water quality because of several factors, including location and distribution of lands under its management and the amount of land managed within watersheds with impaired water quality.

Access has been restricted to BLM lands by some private landowners and is likely to be increasingly restricted. The demand for access to public lands has increased and will continue to increase with growth in population and recreational use.

Archaeological investigations, illegal activities (e.g., cultural resource site vandalism or collecting), and development and maintenance activities (e.g., grazing, mining, recreation use, OHV use) that adversely affect sites have occurred and will continue to occur.

ICBEMP. The Forest Service/BLM Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project/Strategy (ICBEMP), an extensive study of the Interior Columbia Basin, was developed in 1997 to develop a scientifically sound and ecosystem-based strategy for management of all BLM and National Forest lands in the Interior Columbia River basin. The ICBEMP was charged with developing a scientifically based broadscale ecosystem management strategy that may potentially alter the management direction on over 60 million acres of lands administered by the Forest Service and BLM. This study determined that some ecosystems are at risk due to several past and existing impacts. To address these risks, the BLM entered into a 2003 Memorandum of Understanding to implement the ICBEMP. The implementation strategy includes direction to federal agencies to update or develop land use plans to provide direction to address the following:

- Maintain and promote a healthy, productive, and diverse ecosystem and restore, through a system of prioritization, areas that are degraded;
 - Develop an integrated mix of restoration activities to provide for repatterning succession and disturbance regimes and achievement of sustainable landscape conditions, thereby contributing to the reduction of events such as uncharacteristically large and severe wildland fires;
 - Restore natural disturbance patterns in watersheds and hydrologic process to help restore and maintain
-

Table 4.1.3-1 Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario

riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitat;

- Develop integrated weed management strategies; and
 - Develop a coordinated multiscale and interagency approach to planning and decision making.
-

Coeur d'Alene RMP. The BLM is developing an RMP to replace the Emerald Empire MFP (1981). The RMP will incorporate the fire, fuels, and related vegetation management direction resulting from the Fire Management Direction Amendment (above). It also will incorporate long-term management strategies to replace interim INFISH (Forest Service Inland Native Fish Strategy) guidance, which was developed in 1995 as interim strategies for managing fish-producing watersheds pending completion of the RMP.

Cottonwood RMP. The BLM is developing an RMP that will guide management of BLM lands directly adjacent and to the south of the CdA planning area. These revisions will incorporate the fire, fuels, and related vegetation management direction resulting from the Fire Management Direction Amendment (above). It also will incorporate long-term management strategies to replace interim INFISH (Forest Service Inland Native Fish Strategy) guidance, which was developed in 1995 as interim strategies for managing fish-producing watersheds pending completion of the RMP, and will incorporate long-term management strategies to replace interim PACFISH (Forest Service Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and Portions of California) guidance, which was developed in 1995 as interim aquatic management direction pending completion of the RMP.

National Forest Plan Revisions. Various National Forests have completed Forest Plan Revisions that establish management guidance for recreation, forest products, wildland fire management, livestock grazing, vegetation, and wildlife habitat, for future management of publicly owned lands within the National Forest System. Although they do not make site-specific decisions, the plans supply a path for all individual projects to follow. The revised forest management direction responds to new initiatives such as the National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Initiative and to concerns about listed species, habitat restoration, and commodity production. The revised Forest Plans differ from the original plans in that they emphasize restoring or maintaining vegetation and watershed conditions and focus on the ecological condition of the forests rather than commodity production.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest (2.5 million acres) is currently revising its forest plan and estimates completion in 2007. The Clearwater National Forest (1.8 million acres), adjacent to and south of the CdA planning area, is also revising its forest plan, with an estimated completion in 2006. These revisions will address access and recreation, wildlife, watersheds and aquatic species, inventoried roadless areas and proposed wilderness areas, vegetation, timber production, fire risk, and social and economic factors.

4.1.4 Incomplete or Unavailable Information

The CEQ established implementing regulations for NEPA, requiring that a federal agency identify relevant information that may be incomplete or unavailable for an evaluation of reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects in an EIS (40 CFR 1502.22). If the information is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives, it must be included or addressed in an EIS. Knowledge and information is and will always be incomplete, particularly with infinitely complex ecosystems considered at various scales.

The best available information pertinent to the decisions to be made was used in developing the RMP. Considerable effort has been taken to acquire and convert resource data into digital format for use in the plan—both from BLM sources and from outside sources.

Certain information was unavailable for use in developing this plan, usually because inventories have either not been conducted or are not complete. One of the major types of data unavailable is a current detailed inventory of forest vegetation.

In order to estimate existing acreages by cover type at the planning area level, the BLM correlated the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP) potential vegetation groups and Forest Service Vegetation Response Unit (VRUs) with vegetation mapping data analyzed by the Idaho Gap Analysis Program of the US Geological Survey (Scott et al. 2002). Gap analysis is a scientific method used by local, state, and federal land managers in identifying the degree to which native animal species and natural communities are represented in the present-day mix of lands. Using satellite imagery, the Idaho Gap Analysis Program mapped existing natural vegetation (land cover) to the level of dominant or codominant plant species. Thirty-eight cover types were mapped in the planning area.

Between 1992 and 1993, the CdA FO conducted an extensive inventory of the Forest/Woodland vegetation. Between 2002 and 2003, another extensive inventory was conducted on approximately 55,000 acres, mostly within the Silver Valley in Shoshone County east of Coeur d'Alene, and entered into BLM's Forest Vegetation Inventory System (FORVIS). Data collected from the 1992-1993 inventory were also put into FORVIS. Those areas that corresponded to the 2002-2003 inventories were "grown" through computer simulation (Forest Vegetation Simulator – FVS) to 2005. The 2002-2003 inventories were also grown to 2005. Both inventories were compared and the results revealed minimal differences (less than 300 board feet [BF]/acre). Since the 1992-1993 extensive inventory covered a majority of the commercial forest land both within and outside the Silver Valley area, data from this inventory was used to determine Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ), current stocking levels, and structure. Alternatives B, C, and D call for completing a FORVIS inventory on the remaining forest/woodland areas (approximately 27,500 acres).

This RMP is based on the concept of adaptive management, so it has been built to be dynamic enough to account for changes in resource conditions (e.g., largescale wildfire), new information and science, and changes in regulation and policies. No incomplete or unavailable information was deemed essential to a reasoned choice among the alternatives analyzed in this EIS.

4.2 RESOURCES

4.2.1 Air Quality

4.2.1.1 Methods of Analysis

BLM assessed each of the alternatives for its potential to impact air quality by causing changes to particulate matter in the air. Particulate matter is the planning area's dominant air pollutant. Smoke and dust are the primary types of particulate air pollutants that could result from or be affected by land management direction specified in the alternatives.

4.2.1.2 Impacts

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Under all alternatives, impacts on air quality would include smoke created during use of prescribed fire and burning of slash piles, as well as fugitive dust from roads and equipment when implementing vegetation treatments. Impacts would usually be short-term and localized. Smoke emissions would be mitigated by conducting prescribed burns on days approved by the Montana-Idaho Airshed Group (MIAG). Dust emissions would be mitigated through best management practices (BMPs) such as watering roads and applying dust palliatives.

Alternative A: Short-term and localized increases in smoke and dust emissions would occur during implementation of vegetation treatments on 7,000 acres.

Alternative B: There would be a 37 percent increase in areas treated over current levels (Alternative A), which would likely result in corresponding short-term and localized increases in particulate emissions from smoke and fugitive dust. This increase in acres treated would also likely result in decreased long-term impacts when compared to current management, because there would be slightly less potential for large frequent wildland fires as a result of more acres treated.

Alternative C: Under this alternative, vegetation treatment activity would be reduced from current levels to approximately 1,200 acres, an 83 percent decrease. This would likely result in corresponding short-term and localized decreases in particulate emissions from smoke and fugitive dust. However, greater potential for larger and more frequent wildland fires could result from low impact tactics and from less treatment of fuels on the landscape. This could result in greater impacts in the long term.

Alternative D: Vegetation treatment activity would increase from current levels to approximately 8,200 acres, a 17 percent increase. This would likely result in corresponding short-term and localized increases in particulate emissions from smoke and fugitive dust, but decreased long term impacts due to decreased potential for large and frequent wildfires. Similar to Alternative B, the increased number of acres treated will lower the potential for large and frequent wildland fires, thus reducing the potential for impacts on air quality in the long term.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Impacts on air quality from wildland fire management activities include smoke and fugitive dust from roads and equipment. These affects would usually be short-term and localized. One of the management objectives for air quality is the reduction of particulate emissions from uncontrolled wildland fires. The primary method of reducing fire-related impacts from wildland fires is suppression. Fire suppression would remain a central strategy for all alternatives; however, wildland fire use, mechanical fuels treatments, and prescribed fire

treatments could also be used to varying degrees across alternatives. The planned nature of these treatments would allow the BLM to minimize impacts by scheduling and locating them for optimal control of emissions. A long-term impact from these treatment actions would be an improved fire regime condition class and the associated reduction in occurrence of particulate emissions from severe and uncontrollable wildland fire.

Alternative A: Currently the primary fire management objectives and actions emphasize resource protection through full fire suppression and post-fire emergency stabilization. While suppression would reduce short-term smoke emissions, suppression activities would also create fugitive dust. In the longterm, suppression would increase the potential for large and frequent uncontrollable wildland fires with associated increases in smoke emissions.

Alternative B: Emergency stabilization activities would be similar to those of Alternative A. Minimum suppression tactics (MIST) would be used in special designation areas. However, different from current management, Alternative B identifies 52,319 acres as potentially suitable for wildland fire use and proposes fuels treatments such as prescribed burning and mechanical treatments to protect economic resources. Less aggressive suppression tactics, including wildland fire use, would likely result in greater short-term smoke emissions but decreased fugitive dust emissions from roads and vehicles compared to current activities. The use of MIST may also reduce fugitive dust emissions. Smoke resulting from prescribed fire and pile burning would be mitigated through coordination of timing and location with the MLAG. In the long term, the use of wildland fire may reduce the risk of large, catastrophic wildland fires that frequently result in substantial and uncontrollable impacts on air quality.

Alternative C: Impacts on air quality would be similar to those of Alternatives B and D. One difference from other alternatives is the amount of special designations where MIST would be employed. While the total area with special designations under other alternatives constitutes only a small portion of the planning area, Alternative C identifies approximately 23 percent of the BLM administered lands with some type of special designation (wilderness study area, area of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic river corridor, etc.). This sounds significant, but almost all of this area falls within the fire use area – common to Alternatives B, C, and D. Thus, smoke and dust emissions would still be very similar to alternative B or D in both the long and short term.

Alternative D: Impacts on air quality would be nearly identical to those of Alternative B.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Forest products are directly related to forest vegetation management, and resulting impacts are discussed above. One additional potential impact from forest products, not mentioned above, would be the smoke and other particulate emissions from processing mills. Another would be dust from roads and equipment during firewood collection, as well as the smoke when firewood is burned. However, given the limited number of firewood permits issued on BLM land, impacts to air quality would be minimal. Firewood-related impacts would be generally the same across alternatives.

Alternative A: Air quality impacts would correspond with the PSQ of 3.7MMBF (million board feet), acquired from vegetation treatments across approximately 7,000 acres. These impacts would be short-term and localized, as well as mitigated as described above under impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands.

Alternative B: Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, with an increase corresponding to the 37 percent increase in the PSQ and acres to be treated over current levels.

4.2.1 Air Quality

Alternative C: Impacts would be similar to Alternatives A and B, but decreased, corresponding with an 83 percent decrease in acres treated and a 76 percent decrease in the PSQ when compared to Alternative A.

Alternative D: Impacts would be similar to Alternatives A and B, with an increase corresponding to the 19 percent increase in the PSQ and a 17 percent increase in acres treated when compared to Alternative A.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock management activities may result in impacts on air quality through the generation of fugitive dust. This dust could be generated by range and livestock management equipment and vehicles, or result from wind erosion when vegetative cover is removed or trampled by livestock. However, within the planning area, BLM anticipates that these impacts would be negligible due to the low level of grazing that occurs, or would occur, under all alternatives.

Impacts from Mineral Development

Particulate emissions from new road construction and use, exposure of soil to wind, and equipment operations and exhaust are the primary air quality concern associated with mineral development. Impacts from these emissions are likely to be long term but localized. All mineral development would require conformance with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality air quality regulations and permitting requirements. Currently (Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development that impacts air quality than Alternative C.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Fugitive dust resulting from vehicles driving on or off roads and trails, or from wind erosion in areas where vegetation has been removed by off-road vehicles, is the primary impact on air quality from transportation and travel management. All references to motorized travel in this section refer to wheeled vehicles. Snowmobile use would not cause appreciable impacts on air quality under any alternative.

Alternative A: Currently there are 63,041 acres that have no travel designation. By default, these areas are open to cross-country motorized travel. As described above, cross-country vehicle travel can remove vegetation, which would allow wind erosion to increase fugitive dust. There are also 27 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel in the areas where vehicles are limited to designated roads. A small amount of fugitive dust may be generated by use of these roads. Only 162 acres are currently closed to motorized travel, where no impacts would occur.

Alternative B: There are no areas open to cross-county motorized travel under this alternative, thus impacts on air quality associated with open designations would not occur. Fugitive dust could be generated from use of the 282 miles of roads and trails designated for motorized use. While this is an increase in designated roads and trails over current management, the impacts on air quality would actually be less, because most of the additional road designations fall within areas that are currently open to off-road travel. This alternative retains the closed area designations from Alternative A.

Alternative C: Similar to Alternative B, there are no open areas and impacts associated with open designations would not occur. This alternative has 149 more acres closed to motorized travel, and 160 fewer miles of designated roads and trails, than Alternative B. While the increase in area closed is inconsequential, the decrease in designated roads and trails would concentrate motorized travel, which could result in greater generation of dust in localized areas.

Alternative D: Travel management related air quality impacts under this alternative would be very similar to Alternative B. However there would be an additional 469 acres closed to motorized travel, compared to current management. This would not make a substantial difference in the impacts on air quality, since vehicle travel would be limited to designated roads under Alternatives B, C, and D. Alternative D designates 107 fewer miles of roads and trail open to motorized travel than Alternative B. There would be a corresponding concentration of vehicle travel and impacts, similar to, but less than that described under Alternative C.

4.2.1.3 Cumulative Impacts

Activities within the planning area and adjacent areas related to Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan, wildland fire, fuels treatments, timber management, minerals development, population change, the Clean Air Act, as well as RMP and Forest Plan revisions could, along with the various proposed RMP alternatives, have a cumulative effect on air quality and impact air quality management decisions. The potential effects are likely to be similar for all alternatives.

Statewide implementation of the National Fire Plan and changes in the Clean Air Act could result in increased regulatory restrictions and additional requirements for conformance, as required for all of the proposed alternatives. Increased wildland fires and fuels treatments in the region are particularly likely to adversely impact air quality. As previously noted however, BLM coordinates fire management activities with the MT-ID Airshed Group. A primary mission of the airshed management group is to coordinate fire management activities between participating entities (such as BLM, Forest Service, IDEQ, and others) to ensure that simultaneously occurring actions do not cumulatively result in violations of air quality standards or significant deterioration of air quality including visibility. Under all alternatives, BLM's continued participation and coordination with this group would mitigate cumulative impacts on air quality due to fire management actions (including RMP and Forest Plan revisions).

Future increases in mineral development, timber harvesting and, in particular, population in the region could also effect air quality. These increases would likely present a substantial challenge to air quality management and necessitate vigilant assessment of direct and indirect impacts on air quality from planned actions to avoid negative cumulative impacts.

4.2.2 Geology and Soil Resources

4.2.2.1 Methods of Analysis

BLM analyzed management objectives and actions to determine whether they would impact soil resources by causing or affecting soil erosion or compaction. Potential changes (increases or decreases) were then compared with current management for context.

4.2.2.2 Impacts

None of the alternatives would have an impact on geology, and there are no known unique geologic features in the planning area that would be affected.

Impacts from Soils Management

All alternatives would require implementing appropriate BMPs to protect soil and water resources. Similarly, management activities under any of the alternatives must comply with the Idaho Forest Practices Act and the Clean Water Act, which establish additional BMPs and impose penalties for water quality degradation from eroded sediments. To reduce the potential for mass wasting, all alternatives also have special management requirements when actions are proposed in landslide prone areas. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) outline more specific direction (i.e., avoid locating roads or timber harvests on or adjacent to landslides) than current management, so would have greater effect on reducing the potential for mass wasting.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, measures (Interior Native Fish Strategy [INFISH] and Coeur d'Alene Native Fish Strategy [CNFISH]) and BMPs to prevent sedimentation to streams would protect soil resources from erosion. CNFISH would be implemented under Alternatives B, C, and D. This strategy would provide approximately the same level of protection to soils in riparian conservation areas adjacent to water bodies as the INFISH strategy under Alternative A. Restoration and conservation watersheds are identified under CNFISH in Alternatives B, C, and D, which may provide slightly more specific guidance on how and where to implement restoration activities, which would also protect soil resources. However, Alternative A does not preclude the same restoration activities to meet INFISH goals.

Impacts from Vegetation—Forests and Woodlands Management

Vegetation treatments would involve removal of vegetative cover, prescribed burning, construction of roads and use of heavy equipment. Removal of vegetative cover and prescribed burning would result in short-term increased soil erosion. Fires that heat soils to high temperatures can volatilize organics and produce a hydrophobic layer that contributes to higher rates of runoff and more soil erosion. While vegetative treatments and/or low-intensity burns may result in short-term soil disturbance, they would also reduce the risk of long-term damage to soils from high-intensity wildland fires. Road construction and use contribute to soil compaction and erosion, particularly in forested areas (Gucinski et al. 2001). Use of heavy equipment off-road can cause additional soil compaction and erosion. BMPs would be implemented under all alternatives to reduce the potential impacts of road construction, maintenance, and use. BMPs outlining soil moisture and burn intensity limitations for prescribed burning, soil moisture restrictions for use of heavy machinery, and use of equipment designed for low ground pressure would further reduce potential impacts under all alternatives.

Alternative A: This alternative would involve vegetation treatment and hazardous fuels reduction treatments on approximately 7,000 acres. These treatments could result in short-term soil compaction and soil erosion as

described above. However, treatments would also reduce the long-term potential for impacts from high intensity wildland fires.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve a 37 percent increase in area treated over current management, with a corresponding increase in the potential for short-term, and decrease in long-term impacts on soil resources.

Alternative C: This alternative would involve an 83 percent decrease in area treated over current management, with a corresponding decrease in the potential for short-term, and increase in long-term impacts on soil resources.

Alternative D: This alternative would involve a 17 percent increase in area treated over current management, with a corresponding increase in the potential for short-term, and decrease in long-term impacts on soil resources.

Impacts from Vegetation—Riparian and Wetlands Management

Maintaining proper functioning condition (PFC) of riparian and wetland areas would also involve maintaining healthy soil conditions. This would result in reduction in, and prevention of soil erosion. The objective for PFC under Alternatives A, B, and D is 75 percent. Under Alternative B, the objective is only 50 percent, which means there would be potential to allow more activities that would contribute to soil erosion.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Implementing riparian habitat conservation areas (RHCA/RCAs) would minimize soil-disturbing activities adjacent to water bodies. The limits on such activities, proposed under INFISH and CNFISH, are designed to maintain or improve aquatic habitat, which includes minimizing sediment loads (i.e., minimizing soil erosion). All alternatives except Alternative C would involve vegetation treatments to improve big game habitat conditions. BMPs would be applied to these treatments to minimize potential impacts on soils, but the use of prescribed fire and heavy machinery associated with vegetation treatments has the potential to cause soil erosion and compaction, as described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forest Management above. All alternatives call for closing roads in the vicinity of big game winter range for part of the year, which may reduce localized soil compaction. Also, under Alternatives C and D, road densities outside urban or rural areas would be reduced to one mile of road per square mile or less. Road decommissioning and closures would reduce soil compaction and erosion.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Impacts from INFISH and CNFISH have already been discussed. In addition, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) limit road densities within Bear Management Units. Alternatives B and C also limit road densities in wolverine habitat. These road density limitations would further reduce potential for compaction and erosion.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Impacts that wildland fire can cause on soils are described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forest Management. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) list the protection of areas with highly erodible soils among the priorities for fire management. Although erodible soils are a consideration for fire management activities under current management, this added focus would result in less potential for impacts on soils from wildland fire and fire management activities. The action alternatives also identify approximately 52,319 acres that may be managed for wildland fire use to provide resource benefits. This could afford the opportunity to allow low-intensity fire to occur, which would reduce potential for high-intensity fire. The low-

4.2.2 Geology and Soil Resources

intensity fire could result in short-term soil erosion, and associated fire management activities could cause short-term erosion and compaction. However, long-term potential for high-intensity wildfire, and the associated greater soil impacts, would be reduced.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact soils through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. The total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. These constraints would reduce the potential for impacts on soils, quantitatively corresponding to the total area classified as VRM II.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

The probable sale quantities and potential impacts from harvesting forest products are directly related to, and the same as those described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

The primary impacts on soil from grazing are soil compaction from livestock and increased potential for erosion from vegetation removal. However, impacts would be minimal due to the small amount of BLM-administered land leased for grazing in the CdA FO. Under Alternatives A and B, 4,004 acres would be available for grazing. Under Alternatives C and D, only 1,218 acres would be available. In general, fewer acres of livestock grazing would result in more beneficial impacts on soil resources, including lower rates of soil erosion and compaction. All alternatives would follow the Idaho Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines, which would reduce livestock related impacts on soils.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Erosion from exposure of soil, soil compaction and erosion from new road construction and use, and equipment operations, are the primary geology concerns associated with mineral development. Impacts from these activities are likely to be long-term but localized. Currently (Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development, which impacts soils more than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Generally, exposure of soil to erosion due to recreational use will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA because SRMAs are managed more intensively. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on soils more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts on soils from biomass harvesting and utilization would be the same as those described under Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. For wind energy development, associated road

construction and use of heavy machinery to install and maintain wind turbines and power lines could cause soil compaction and erosion. BMPs would be implemented under all alternatives, which would reduce the potential for impacts on soils. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) contain management direction for renewable energy development that current management does not. This direction would help to reduce the potential for impacts on soils.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Motorized vehicle traffic on roads and trails can cause soil compaction and erosion. Off-road travel can compact soil and remove vegetation, exposing soil to wind and rain which increases potential for erosion. Snowmobile use would not have a notable impact on soils.

Alternative A: Currently there are 63,041 acres that have no travel designation. By default, these areas are open to cross-country motorized travel. As described above, off-road use in these areas could increase potential for soil compaction and erosion. There are also 27 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel in the areas where vehicles are limited to designated roads. Use of these roads could result in soil erosion. Only 162 acres are currently closed to motorized travel, where no impacts would occur.

Alternative B: There is no area open to cross-county motorized travel, thus impacts on soils associated with open designation would not occur. Erosion could occur from use of the 282 miles of roads and trails designated for motorized use. While this is an increase in designated roads and trails over current management, the impacts on soils would actually be less, due to the fact that most of the additional road designations fall within areas that would no longer be open to off-road travel. This alternative retains the closed area designations from Alternative A.

Alternative C: Similar to Alternative B, there is no open area and impacts associated with open designation would not occur. This alternative has 149 more acres closed to motorized travel, and 160 fewer miles of designated roads and trails, than Alternative B. While the increase in area closed is inconsequential, the decrease in designated roads and trails would concentrate motorized travel, which could result in greater potential for erosion in localized areas.

Alternative D: Travel management related soils impacts under this alternative would be very similar to Alternative B. However there would be an additional 469 acres closed to motorized travel, compared with current management. This would not make a substantial difference in the impacts on air quality since vehicle travel would be limited to designated roads under Alternatives B, C, and D. Alternative D designates 107 fewer miles of roads and trail open to motorized travel than Alternative B. There would be a corresponding concentration of vehicle travel and impacts, similar to but less than those described under Alternative C.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

ROW authorizations and land use permits are generally for activities such as road construction or facilities development. Construction, road use, and heavy equipment can cause soil compaction and erosion.

Alternative A: Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related impacts on soils could occur anywhere in the planning area.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. There would be no potential for related impacts on soils in exclusion areas, and the potential would be greatly reduced in avoidance areas. However,

4.2.2 Geology and Soil Resources

these designations would also concentrate authorizations within the remaining 51,548 acres, which could increase the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative C: This alternative would involve 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Impacts on soils within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the differences in area. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative D: This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Impacts on soils within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the slight differences in area. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations (ACEC and RNA) could help to protect soils by limiting uses. Localized protective management of stream segments found eligible or suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation could provide similar protection.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Soils would be indirectly protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on soils are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect soils, unless the WSA is released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation would similarly protect soils. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer), and very little ability to influence soils. Of the remaining protected corridors, all but about 300 acres fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which is already protected. Thus, protection of eligible segments would add little to protection of soils, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect soils as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of soils.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect soils through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of soils. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

4.2.2.3 Cumulative Effects

The cumulative impacts to soils are limited to the immediate area of any management activity. Few past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future activities outside the CdA FO would affect soil resources within the CdA FO. Impacts to soil resources from road construction, timber harvests, mechanical vegetation treatments, prescribed burning, grazing, or other land management activities are localized and do not affect soils outside the area of activity. The exception to this general concept involves activities that increase or reduce the risks of wildland fires, which can spread from adjacent areas into the CdA FO, potentially affecting soil resources. However, because other resources, including water quality and fish habitat are affected by soil conditions outside of the planning area, potential impacts to soil resources from past, present, and foreseeable future actions are addressed at the regional scale.

In general, continued effects from past land use activities – such as mining, grazing, road construction, and timber harvest – degrade soil conditions. Generally, cumulative impacts for past (and less often) present factors are contributing to degraded soil conditions. As management restrictions, particularly on federal lands, have focused more on watershed conditions, activities have been restricted and BMPs have been developed to protect soil resources. This trend is likely to continue in the future.

Alternative A, followed by Alternatives B and D, would be more likely to affect soil resources than the other alternatives, potentially resulting in measurable soil erosion and soil compaction in the CdA FO. Alternative C would be more protective of soil resources than the other alternatives, except that it would allow more potential for large, high-intensity wildfire (and associated impacts). Considered with other past, present, and foreseeable future actions throughout northern Idaho, these potential impacts to soils could be compounded or mitigated, depending on the extent of ground-disturbing activities and the application of appropriate BMPs. The specific potential impacts to soils from other past, present, and future actions in northern Idaho are discussed below.

The decrease in the acres of public lands managed by the CdA FO has likely resulted in fewer protective management restrictions in areas no longer in federal ownership. For example, timber harvest and related road construction activities within Idaho are regulated by the Idaho Forest Practices Act under the Idaho Department of Lands. This act does not provide the level of protection and conservation for soils that BLM and Forest Service regulations and policies provide on federally administered lands (Forest Service 2003). However, as future ownership adjustment actions consolidate public lands in the CdA FO, soil resources will likely be managed across watersheds, which would protect soils more effectively.

Historic wildland fire suppression has resulted in increased risk of large, high-severity wildland fires, which could result in largescale erosion. Fires that occur outside of BLM lands have the potential to spread to the CdA FO, impacting soil resources. The National Fire Plan was developed in response to these high-severity wildland fires. The intent of the National Fire Plan is to develop strategies and treatments that are coordinated between various landowners, including federal agencies, to address the variety of hazards and risks that occur to reduce undesirable effects of wildland fires on all lands. To the extent that fire risks are mitigated across landscapes, including BLM lands, the risks of large wildland fires would be reduced, which would protect soil resources.

As more fuels treatments occur in the CdA FO and adjacent lands, short-term, localized soil compaction and erosion could occur. Implementing BMPs on federal lands would likely reduce the level of impacts. Because of fewer restrictions, short-term, localized impacts are more likely on private lands. Localized impacts to soils outside the CdA FO would be unlikely to affect soil resources in the CdA FO. If fuels treatments successfully

prevent large, high-severity fires, soil resources would benefit in the long-term. Reducing the risk of high-severity wildland fires outside of the CdA FO would benefit soil resources in the FO by minimizing the risk of a fire that could spread into the FO. Similarly, to the extent that insect and disease activity increase the risk of large, high-severity fires on private and public lands, soil resources could be impacted. Activities designed to treat or prevent the spread of insects and diseases could result in short-term, localized impacts to soils but would provide long-term protection to soils by reducing the risk of wildland fire.

Past timber harvest on private lands, State of Idaho lands, BLM-administered lands, and National Forest lands have resulted in soil compaction and erosion. Current timber activities, particularly on federal lands, are subject to more environmental regulations, resulting in fewer impacts to soils.

Past road construction on BLM-administered lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and National Forest lands has resulted in localized impacts to soil resources. Future impacts to soils will likely decrease on federal lands because of better BMPs available to reduce impacts to soils. Road BMPs are less protective of soils on private and State of Idaho lands and future road building in these areas could result in impacts to soils.

The long-term impacts of livestock grazing would result in soil compaction and erosion in areas of concentrated use. Grazing on lands outside of the planning area has not likely affected soils. Implementation of the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management should prevent long-term soil damage by requiring changes in management at the first signs of potential damage. Efforts to control noxious weeds will likely continue on federal and state lands and, to a lesser extent, private lands.

Minerals activities have impacted soil resources, particularly in the Silver Valley area on private and public lands. Mining on BLM-administered lands, Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Reservation lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and National Forest lands has resulted in localized impacts to soil resources. Increased environmental regulations in the Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site has resulted in remediation activities and reduced impacts to soils. The level of future minerals development in the CdA FO will depend on commodity prices, urban growth, and construction needs. If prices increase and mining activities increase in the future, potential impacts to soils will also increase. Drilling one or two exploratory oil and gas holes or geothermal wells would involve localized impacts to soils. Increased salable mineral activities (including extraction of sand and gravel, crushed rock, and decorative stone) would result in localized soil compaction and erosion.

Trends of increasing population in the CdA FO will likely result in greater demand for infrastructure, including roads, as well as forest products, minerals, and recreation activities, all of which could result in increased soil compaction and erosion. Local governments will be faced with direct pressures from population growth and movement, including demands for intensified development in rural areas. In the past, local governments in Idaho generally accommodated growth in ways that negatively affected soil resources (Forest Service 2003). Because there is little consistency among local governments regarding the way they address land use and environmental issues, both positive and negative effects on soils can be expected.

Along with population, recreation use is also increasing in northern Idaho, resulting in greater potential soil compaction and erosion. Implementing BMPs and monitoring their effectiveness, and more effective recreation management to limit OHV users to established trails, could reduce potential impacts to soils from recreation uses.

Some of the federal and state agency funding to conserve populations of fish and wildlife species would likely be used to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation to streams. Increased funding would protect soil resources. If species were delisted under the Endangered Species Act, habitat protections that restricted road construction or other surface disturbing activities could not be removed. If these activities were allowed to a greater extent than under the current situation, soil resources would be impacted. Efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution to impaired water bodies will likely involve reductions in soil erosion and sedimentation, which is both a potential contaminant and a transporter of many other potential contaminants. Approaches to reducing sedimentation to streams will likely involve implementing BMPs to prevent or reduce soil erosion, which would protect soil resources. Implementation of ICBEMP has resulted and would continue to result in protection of soil resources. The Forest Service has already updated several Forest Plans to incorporate the recommendations of ICBEMP. The BLM is also including these recommendations in the CdA RMP. Among the provisions that will protect soils are the focus on maintaining and promoting a productive ecosystem and restoring areas that are degraded. Efforts to avoid uncharacteristically large and severe wildland fires would also protect soil resources.

Implementation of the revised Forest Plans will protect soil resources because management standards and guidelines emphasize restoring or maintaining watershed conditions, including soil resources.

4.2.3 Water Resources

4.2.3.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions could result in impacts on water resources management if they were to directly or indirectly change the quantity or quality of water resources. BLM analyzed the potential for management objectives and actions to change the following indicators of water quantity and quality:

- Water flow (flow regime)
- Sediment load
- Water Temperature
- Dissolved or suspended metals and other chemicals

Assumptions

- Reclamation actions would continue on some lands impacted by mining, as described in the Bunker Hill Record of Decision.
- Implementation of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Restoration Plans and establishment of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) are expected to improve water quality.
- Existing roads within the CdA FO would continue to erode from motorized use and natural processes, resulting in impacts on water quality in adjacent streams.

4.2.3.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soil Resources Management

Management under all of the alternatives could impact rates of soil erosion and therefore could affect water quality (sediment load) and stream flows. BMPs are interventions designed to minimize the impacts of human activities on water quality caused by discharge of sediment or chemical constituents. BMPs range from those designed to reduce or prevent the generation of sediment or chemical constituents at their source, to those designed to contain and/or treat runoff before it reaches a water body.

The CNFISH under Alternatives B through D provides additional protection of water resources with respect to timber harvesting and road construction and maintenance activities that are not provided under INFISH. The CNFISH also recognizes specific watersheds for additional protection. These exceptions are also described below.

Alternative A: Increases in sediment and stream temperature are the two most common sources of stream impairment in the CdA FO. Most of the existing documentation supporting TMDLs suggests that current BLM management does not contribute substantially to existing impairments. Under Alternative A, impacts from soil resource management would primarily involve control of soil erosion associated with road construction and maintenance of roads and timber harvesting, and the associated reduction in sediments in surface water. Impacts on water would continue to be controlled and water quality would improve due to implementation of BMPs and the guidelines and standards for roads in Appendix B.

Current management also calls for the identification of areas prone to landslides and implementation of Category 4 RHCA buffers, which would reduce the potential for landslides (mass erosion) triggered by human activities. The primary management option for minimizing mass erosion resulting from roads or timber

harvest is avoiding high-risk sites. This would not necessarily prevent landslides, but it could affect water quality by reducing the frequency and potential for sediment delivery to streams.

Action Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D): Impacts would be similar to Alternative A, except as described below.

Implementing CNFISH guidelines (Appendix D) and BMPs (Appendix A) for timber harvesting and road construction and maintenance activities would provide additional protection to soils in riparian conservation areas, beyond that identified under Alternative A. Regulating soil-disturbing activities within landslide-prone areas and creating buffers, as outlined in CNFISH, would affect water quality by reducing the potential for sediment delivery to surface water. The action alternatives would also prioritize restoration and conservation efforts in specific watersheds, which would improve stabilization more quickly than under Alternative A, further reducing related impacts on water quality.

The action alternatives call for applying appropriate reclamation measures to mitigate soil erosion and sediment delivery to streams at the subwatershed scale of evaluation. Restoration measures have already been initiated under current management in the Pine Creek watershed, so these actions are not unique to Alternatives B, C, and D. However, specifically identifying them in the RMP provides greater assurance that restoration opportunities would be identified and that excessive sediment loading to streams would be addressed in all watersheds.

Reduction of soil erosion, particularly in sensitive areas (priority watersheds) with steep slopes or highly erodible soils, would help to prevent or reverse impairment of affected water bodies. Alternatives B, C, and D more specifically identify the site characteristics that would trigger additional slope stability assessment (for example, slopes greater than 55 percent, or areas with indicators such as hydric vegetation, convergent slopes, or perched groundwater).

Alternatives B, C, and D prohibit locating roads in areas of unstable slopes and prioritize the restoration and removal of roads in areas of unstable slopes. These actions would further reduce impacts on water resources from soil erosion. Short-term impacts on water quality could occur from road obliteration activities but would be mitigated by implementing BMPs, and by the long-term elimination of impacts.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

All alternatives call for the prescription and implementation of BMPs to prevent degradation of water quality. Such BMPs, to include those listed in Appendix A, would reduce the potential for impacts on water quality. Implementing BMPs related to road construction and maintenance, timber harvesting activities (see Appendix A), fire management, noxious weed control, and other management actions would minimize or prevent soil erosion and sedimentation and minimize discharge of metals to surface and groundwater. As a result, impacts on surface water quality would be minimized. Longer retention of water within the upper watershed would promote groundwater recharge and increased soil moisture, contributing to more stable stream flow regimes. BMPs would also be used to control sources of nonpoint pollution and eliminate impairments such as poorly drained roads that may be occurring as a result of authorized activities.

Alternative A: Identifying watershed problems and inventorying water resources would continue under Alternative A. Data collection, monitoring, and assessment would enable water resource managers to select appropriate BMPs to maintain or restore proper functioning condition, and to reduce or prevent contributions to water quality impairment. The INFISH strategy encourages data collection and watershed assessment for the purpose of protecting or restoring fish habitat, which is an indirect indicator of the

condition of water resources. In the absence of a watershed analysis, interim Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs) would be implemented, which could be replaced by site-specific RMOs after watershed analysis is completed.

Developing plans to alleviate watershed problems could contribute to improvement in water resources. The INFISH strategy encourages development of site-specific RMOs based on watershed analysis. The degree of success would be dependent on the content of specific plans. Under Alternative A, management within 12,869 acres identified as Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (for protection of salmonid species) would continue to be guided by the standards and guidelines identified in the INFISH strategy.

Action Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D): Impacts would be the same as for Alternative A, except use of riparian conservation area (RCA) guidelines to identify and correct water resource-related problems under CNFISH is expected to result in improvements in surface and groundwater quality watershed function compared to Alternative A. Among the improvements are general provisions requiring that a restoration component be included as part of actions and events in RCAs that are not at desired condition, and prohibitions against long-term degradation of aquatic conditions (see Appendix E). Specific measures relating to timber management and road management would result in greater protections and improvements in water resources relative to Alternative A. In general, the RCA guidelines are more restrictive of activities that could impact water resource than current management guidelines and allow for fewer exceptions. As a result, the action alternatives would result in fewer impacts on water resources than under Alternative A.

The action alternatives also call for cooperation between BLM and adjacent landowners, agencies, tribes, and communities to meet beneficial use criteria for water resources. Although similar cooperation could occur under Alternative A, it is specifically encouraged under the action alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation- Forests and Woodlands

Research has consistently shown that roads have the greatest effect on surface and mass erosion of all forest practices. A large body of research shows, however, that many of the sedimentation and erosional impacts of roads are manageable through proper planning, location, design, maintenance, and closure.

Alternative A: Vegetation treatments on approximately 7,000 acres could result in short-term to long-term impacts on water resources due to increased erosion. However, such treatments would also reduce the potential for high-intensity wildland fire. This would reduce the potential for soil erosion and rapid runoff that often occurs in areas affected by intense fires.

Alternative B: Vegetation treatments are more specific under Alternative B than Alternative A and apply to 37 percent more acres. The short-term indirect impacts on water quality resulting from these treatments would be correspondingly greater than under Alternative A. Similarly, the long-term reduction in potential water quality impacts from high-intensity wildland fires is expected to be greater under Alternative B.

Alternative C: This alternative would have the lowest potential for short-term forest vegetation management related impacts on water due to an 83 percent decrease in the number of acres that would be treated compared to current management. There would also be a corresponding increase in potential impacts from intense wildland fire on the untreated acres.

Alternative D: Alternative D would result in a 17 percent increase in acres treated compared to current management. Impacts on water quality would be similar to those identified under Alternative B, quantitatively adjusted for the slight decrease in acres treated.

Impacts from Vegetation-Riparian and Wetlands Management

Maintaining or restoring riparian and wetland areas to PFC would affect surface water quality by reducing erosion and sediment transport to water bodies and providing shade to reduce water temperatures. Under Alternatives A, C, and D, the objective for riparian and wetland areas in PFC is 75 percent. It is only 50 percent under Alternative B. The effects on water quality would correspond to these percentages. Given the BLM's limited land ownership in most watersheds, the potential for success in achieving the goal for standing water bodies would be influenced by the degree of control or influence that BLM can exert over the watersheds that contribute to these water bodies.

Impacts from Vegetation - Nonforested Management

Nonforested lands represent about nine percent of the CdA FO. Management of nonforested lands would have impacts on water resources similar to those described for forested lands. Reduction in vegetation can result in increased soil erosion. This vegetation tends to occur in areas of repeated past fires, and these lands are vulnerable to encroachment by invasive plant species, some of which have increased susceptibility to wildland fire. Therefore, from the perspective of water quality, one of the principal issues would be the effects on soil erosion and water quality from fire. Idaho Rangeland Health Standards would continue to be applied to management of these lands under Alternative A, which would affect water resources because these standards are designed in part to reduce soil erosion and restore damaged soils and vegetation cover. Management and associated impacts are substantially the same across all alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation-Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

A variety of control techniques (biological, manual, cultural, and herbicidal) would be used to address invasive plant species, in order to increase effectiveness and minimize reliance on chemicals. During application of herbicide to noxious weeds, there is always a slight potential for chemicals to get into surface water. Careful management and monitoring of applications would minimize this potential. The impacts on water resources are expected to be approximately the same under all alternatives since the actions would be the same under all alternatives. Reduction of noxious weed populations promotes growth of native plants, which can reduce soil erosion and sediment loads in adjacent streams.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species Management

Efforts to protect and enhance riparian and aquatic ecosystems through implementation of INFISH and CNFISH standards and guidelines in RHCAs would reduce sediment runoff and improve water retention and storage. INFISH identifies interim standards but allows for development of site-specific standards based on analysis of individual RHCAs. The purpose is to restore inland fish habitat, but the effect of successful implementation of these measures would be to restore and maintain the identified riparian areas in PFC. Effects of PFC on water quality are identified above under Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands.

Road closure, removal, and other actions to manage big game habitat would lower potential for erosion and sediment caused by motorized vehicles.

These management actions and associated effects on water quality are similar in type and quantity across all alternatives.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Prevention and suppression of wildland fires, if successful, would help to protect surface and groundwater quality and retention and storage of water resources in the watershed by reducing erosion and preventing rapid runoff that often results from loss of vegetation cover after a fire. Runoff from burned areas can also

transport chemical products of combustion to water bodies. In some cases, fire suppression chemicals might be needed to control a fire, and these can be transported to a water body. All alternatives call for stabilization of slopes or manmade sites, and revegetation of burned areas, which would help to reduce impacts on water quality from eroded sediment and chemical contaminants.

Alternative A: Current management emphasizes suppression and does not allow for fire use. It calls for full suppression within one operational period, which may require heavy application of fire suppression chemicals, rather than less aggressive techniques, potentially leading to greater water quality impacts.

Alternative B: This alternative calls for developing plans to implement wildland fire use within approximately 52,319 acres. It also calls for protecting economically valuable resources and increasing protection of WUI and municipal watersheds and infrastructure, through utilization of fuels treatment activities and greater public education and coordination with other entities. These actions do not have counterparts under Alternative A, although they are implemented to some degree. The use of wildland fire and fuel treatments could result in increased short-term soil erosion and consequent water quality impacts, but is expected to reduce long-term impacts through more effective prevention and control of wildland fires. Plans would identify BMPs to minimize erosion and impacts on water resources.

Alternative C: This alternative is similar to Alternative B in its objectives and the associated actions. However, this alternative emphasizes low impact suppression techniques and protection of noncommodity resources such as wildlife habitat. Alternative C does not call for full suppression within one operational period. In general, since devastating uncontrolled wildland fires are undesirable for both habitat protection and commodity production, and because habitat protection would apply to lands that are not particularly valuable for commodity production, Alternative C could be more protective of water resources than Alternative B. However, the emphasis on habitat protection is likely to result in more reliance on fire prevention techniques that are less intrusive and take longer to implement, more fuel remaining in place where it can increase the intensity of fires, and less effective fire prevention measures. The result is likely to be fewer short-term impacts on water resources, but greater risk of major long-term impacts on water resources.

Alternative D: Management under Alternative D would be similar to Alternative B. It would rely more on quick response and suppression of fire starts than Alternative C, but it would include more emphasis on protecting noncommodity resources than Alternative B. The short-term impacts on water resources are likely to be similar to Alternative B, and the long-term impacts would probably be less than under Alternative C. The impacts on water resources would be most dependent on the relative effectiveness in preventing large, uncontrolled fires.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact water quality through the limitations it place on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (195 percent increase over current), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (65 percent increase over current). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. These constraints would reduce the potential for impacts on water quality, quantitatively corresponding to the total area classified as VRM II.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

The potential impacts from harvesting forest products are the same as those described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Grazing animals can impact water resources by compacting or disturbing soils, reducing vegetation cover, increasing nutrient loading and pathogenic organism concentrations in surface water, and altering runoff patterns by creating preferential pathways for runoff along trails. Such impacts are often associated with incorrect allocation of the available resource due to overestimation of the carrying capacity of the land. Within the planning area, carrying capacity estimation has been successfully completed, and negligible impacts on water resources have been observed under current management. In general, impacts from livestock grazing would be minimal due to the small amount of BLM-administered land leased for grazing in the CdA FO. Under Alternatives A and B, 4,004 acres would be available for grazing. Under Alternatives C and D, only 1,218 acres would be available. No additional impacts are expected under Alternative B, which would continue current allocations, and Alternatives C and D would reduce current livestock allocation.

Impacts from Minerals Management

The impacts on water resources from locatable mineral exploration and development could vary greatly depending on location, type of mineral, and size of operation. Impacts can include discharge of contaminants to surface water, leaching of heavy metals, acids, or other mineral constituents from tailings piles to surface or groundwater, impacts on groundwater levels from dewatering operations, chemical spills, air deposition of particulates or other chemicals from ore processing operations, as well as more generic impacts from installation of utilities, road construction, and other ancillary activities. Modern mining operations must conform to federal and state environmental laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and others. Even with these laws and their implementing regulations, largescale locatable mineral development involves major environmental risk associated with storing tailings, managing water from dewatering operations, and managing chemicals used in the processing of ore. After mining activities are completed, site restoration may require many years, is likely to be costly, and may encounter problems that were not anticipated at the onset of operations.

The impacts on water resources from salable minerals would be generally less than for locatable minerals. Most mineral operations are small and relatively simple. Impacts would typically include generation and discharge of contaminated surface water or water from dewatering operations, discharge of sediment, and potential for spills or releases of petroleum products or other chemicals, and alteration of drainage patterns. The potential for these impacts would be reduced by compliance with existing federal and state laws and regulations. The impacts on water resources from leasable mineral operations could be similar to those described for locatables.

Currently (Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more impacts on water quality than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Generally, exposure of soil to erosion due to recreational use, which results in increased sediment loads to streams, will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus the potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would

increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on water quality more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts on water quality from biomass harvesting and utilization would be the same as those described under Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. For wind energy development, associated road construction and use of heavy machinery to install and maintain wind turbines and power lines could cause soil compaction and erosion, which would result in long-term impacts on water quality. BMPs would be implemented under all alternatives which would reduce the potential for impacts on water quality. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) contain management direction for renewable energy development that current management does not. This direction would help to reduce the potential for impacts on water quality.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Motorized vehicle traffic on roads and trails can cause erosion and thus impact water quality. Off-road travel can remove vegetation, exposing soil to runoff which increases potential for increased sediment loads in surface water. These impacts increase when they occur within riparian areas. Snowmobile use would not have a notable impact on water quality.

Alternative A: Currently there are 63,041 acres that have no travel designation. By default, these areas are open to cross-country motorized travel. As described above, off-road use in these areas could increase potential for soil erosion and impacts on water quality. There are also 27 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel in the areas where vehicles are limited to designated roads. Use of these roads could result in soil erosion and impacts on water quality. Only 162 acres are currently closed to motorized travel, where no impacts would occur.

Alternative B: There is no area open to cross-county motorized travel, thus impacts on water quality associated with open designation would not occur. Erosion and sediment runoff could occur from use of the 282 miles of roads and trails designated for motorized use. While this is an increase in designated roads and trails over current management, the impacts on water quality would actually be less, due to the fact that most of the additional road designations fall within areas that are currently open to off-road travel. This alternative retains the closed area designations from Alternative A.

Alternative C: Similar to Alternative B, there is no open area and impacts associated with open designation would not occur. This alternative has 149 more acres closed to motorized travel, and 160 fewer miles of designated roads and trails, than Alternative B. While the increase in closed area is inconsequential, the decrease in designated roads and trails would concentrate motorized travel, which could result in greater potential for erosion and sediment runoff in localized areas.

Alternative D: Travel management related soils impacts under this alternative would be very similar to Alternative B. However there would be an additional 469 acres closed to motorized travel, compared with current management. This would not make a substantial difference in the impacts on air quality since vehicle travel would be limited to designated roads under Alternatives B, C, and D. Alternative D designates 107 fewer miles of roads and trail open to motorized travel than Alternative B. There would be a corresponding concentration of vehicle travel and impacts, similar to but less than those described under Alternative C.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

ROW authorizations and use permits are generally for activities such as road construction or facilities development. Construction, road use, and heavy equipment can cause soil erosion and increase sediment loads in adjacent surface waters.

Current BLM policy prevents acquiring or transferring lands with unresolved hazardous materials issues. , Alternative A does not specifically prevent this, potentially leaving flexibility for management to incur additional responsibility for hazardous materials sites if determined to be offset by other effects. While it is unlikely that this policy would be changed in the future, effects of public management could include economies of scale in the cost and timing of remediating a site, or increased probability of achieving remediation goals. In some cases, for example, acquisition of adjacent lands upslope or upgradient might enable BLM to address the sources of water quality problems that affect existing public lands more quickly and effectively than would otherwise be possible. Also, as with brownfields sites, residual contamination might be reasonably left in place if compatible with the intended long-term land use.

Alternative A: Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related impacts on water resources could occur anywhere in the planning area.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. There would be no potential for related impacts on water resources to occur in exclusion areas, and the potential would be greatly reduced in avoidance areas. However, these designations would also concentrate authorizations within the remaining 51,548 acres, which could increase the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative C: This alternative would involve 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Impacts on water quality within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the differences in area. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative D: This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Impacts on water quality within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the slight differences in area. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations, such as ACECs, could help to protect water quality by limiting uses. Localized protective management of stream segments found eligible or suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation could provide similar protection.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. High water quality would be protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on water quality are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect water quality, unless the WSA is released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would include protection of water quality. However, eligible segments

include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership, and therefore little ability to influence water quality. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would be no added protection, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect water quality as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of water quality.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect existing water quality through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of water resources. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Social and Economic Conditions Management

Impacts on water quality are directly related to management direction for hazardous materials and abandoned mines.

Alternative A: The BLM would continue to monitor the performance of remedial actions where hazardous substances and AMLs remain in place. In this role, the BLM would continue to be involved in ensuring that remedial actions are effective in preventing or reducing impacts on water quality, although ultimate responsibility for effectiveness would rest with the responsible parties and state or federal agencies responsible for the cleanups. BLM action would help to identify and reduce impacts on water quality from hazardous materials incidences.

Alternative A provides that the BLM should continue to manage and clean up public lands in the Coeur d'Alene basin and in parts of the expanded Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site, to protect the public, BLM employees, and the environment. Based on current management, this would involve continued efforts to address sources of contamination on BLM lands, to restore stream channels and functioning condition, and to coordinate with other agencies and private landowners to achieve these objectives. These efforts are expected to result in improvements in surface and groundwater quality over the long term. Alternative A specifies that actions involving hazardous materials on public lands must comply with existing federal and state regulations. Compliance with these requirements should prevent most impacts on water resources.

Alternative B: This alternative more fully defines the BLM's responsibilities in ensuring long-term effectiveness of remedies at closed/remediated sites than under Alternative A. These include the following:

- Preparation of monitoring plans;
- Performing five-year reviews; and

- Developing special stipulations for future use of the remediated lands.

These measures would be in addition to any state or federal requirements imposed at the time of closure. For example, remedies for EPA sites where waste remains after completion of the remedy typically specify long-term monitoring, deed restrictions, and periodic review requirements to ensure long-term effectiveness of management of the residual waste. However, these actions would provide additional assurance of protection of water resources at sites subject to future use.

Alternative B specifies several additional actions to reduce the potential for impacts associated with hazardous materials, including placing special stipulations in permits and leases defining specific requirements for managing hazardous materials, prohibiting unauthorized storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous materials, and imposing restrictions under the mining law.

These additional actions would give the BLM flexibility to require compliance with more stringent requirements than existing state and federal regulations, or (in the case of application of the mining law), to prohibit or restrict disturbance or require bonding as assurance of proper handling.

These requirements could reduce the potential for releases that might affect water quality, resulting in improved water quality.

Alternative C: In addition to the measures in Alternative B, Alternative C would further restrict sites with significant known hazardous materials by withdrawing them from the mining law. This would prevent any future mineral activities at identified sites that currently are not covered by an active mining claim. Also, proposed activities on sites with valid existing rights would require a plan of operations for BLM approval regardless of the amount of proposed disturbance. These additional restrictions would have only minor additional beneficial impacts on water quality compared to Alternative B.

Alternative D: The impacts would be the same as under Alternative B with the addition of closing the sites to motorized vehicles when appropriate. This restriction builds on Alternative B and is broader in scope than Alternative C because any proposed activities, not just those associated with minerals, would require a plan of development for BLM approval.

4.2.3.3 Cumulative Effects

Nearly all of the actions and events listed in Table 4.1.3-1 would contribute to a cumulative impact on water resources in the region. The scattered land pattern in regard to watersheds in the planning area increases the potential for cumulative impacts. Public ownership is rarely continuous along an entire stream length so habitat conditions and management directions vary and may be quite fragmented. Outside public lands, resource decisions occurring on other lands managed by state, federal and private landowners would have cumulative effects on all public lands. Private lands present a full spectrum from full resource development and use to resource preservation. Although existing and future activities on private lands are not well known, the assumption is that surface-disturbing and disruptive activities, such as mineral development, and general construction, would occur. Many of the actions and events listed include a component intended to reduce or prevent impacts on water resources, or to reverse past effects on water resources. Many of the BLM management actions parallel or are designed to be implemented in coordination with these actions and events. The cumulative effect of these actions and events would be the increased protection, maintenance or restoration of water quality and the designated beneficial uses of water in the region. A trend in the improvement of water quality would likely be observed by actions and events that would increase water flow and protect stream temperature, while also reducing sediment loads and total dissolved and suspended metals.

This general cumulative impact would occur under each of the alternatives, with small variations in the magnitude of the impact, especially within the CdA FO, resulting from the different emphases of the alternatives. Actions and events conducted under Alternatives D would be the most proactive in the short and long term, followed by Alternative B. Alternative C, which emphasizes natural processes, would likely have the greatest short-term impacts, but with improvement over the long term. Alternative A would likely continue to improve conditions over both the short and long term, but at a slower rate than either Alternative B or D. The actions and events that fall within this category of impact include land tenure actions, the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan, wildland fire management strategies, fish and wildlife conservation measures, implementation of the Endangered Species Act, implementation of Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, implementation of the ICBEMP strategy, and implementation of resource-protection measures in the National Forest Plan revisions. Under all alternatives, water quality and watersheds should improve over the long term through participation in cooperative watershed planning efforts with other land management agencies, tribes, and private landowners.

Cumulative impacts that would affect water quality would occur from all activities that disturb soils, remove vegetation, and cause soil compaction or channel overland flows, such as timber harvest, road construction, recreational use, and mining. Such disturbances can result in accelerated soil erosion and runoff, which increase sediment, salt, nutrient and metal loads to local channels and lead to channel destabilization.

Actions and events or regional trends would have potential adverse impacts on water resources, unless mitigated through implementation of BMPs, compliance with existing laws and regulations, or through measures designed specifically to address impacts on water resources. Fire management actions, particularly fuel reduction measures that could involve soil disturbance or vegetation removal such as prescribed burns, thinning, slash removal, herbicide treatments, or wildland fire use, could result in short-term impacts on water quality, but are expected to reduce the risk of more catastrophic effects on water resources in the long-term. Management that emphasizes allowing natural processes (Alternative C), including fire, to proceed with minimal human intervention, might have substantial impacts on water resources over time, but reduced short-term impacts on water resources. Fire management on National Forest and private land, is an example of an area where the cumulative impacts of fire management decisions (whether to suppress fire, reduce fuel, or minimize human intervention) would influence outcomes on regional water resources to a much greater extent than the individual decisions associated with BLM management, since BLM manages relatively few acres of forest in the planning area.

Timber, livestock management, and mineral resource management actions throughout the region would have similar impacts to those described under the RMP project alternatives. In the case of timber management, US Forest Service management actions under the National Forest Plans and revisions is much more influential on regional water resource outcomes than BLM actions, due to the vastly larger amount of land area in the National Forests. However, BLM and the US Forest Service are each constrained by similar rules and guidelines intended for the protection of water resources, wildlife habitat, and protection of threatened and endangered species and other resources. In addition, BLM and the US Forest Service increasingly coordinate their plans and management actions to achieve common objectives for any given watershed, in the context of guidance that emphasizes watershed scale planning, and in the context of regional scale plans such as the ICBEMP or INFISH. Thus, regional water resources outcomes resulting from forest management practices are likely to increasingly favor the protection of water resources, and to provide for increasing monitoring of impacts to allow corrective measures to be implemented and effective adaptive management of the resources. Differences in the level of emphasis on forest vegetation treatments under each of the alternatives of the

RMP would result in relatively minor differences in the cumulative regional impacts on water resources due to the relatively small BLM land ownership, and the general consistency in management between the agencies.

The most important mineral development potential in the CdA cumulative effects region is for silver and gold in historically productive districts. These are also areas in which past mining activity has severely impacted water resources. Future mining activity would not result in the magnitude of impacts on water resources that have occurred from past mining activity, because current laws and regulations provide a high level of protection of water and other resources. Remediation of the Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site is a long-term process, involving multiple agencies, as well as the current responsible parties. The Bunker Hill site continues to be a source of metals contamination of surface and groundwater, contaminated soils and sediments are transported by erosional process into streams, and then continue to migrate downstream. Although a remedy has been selected, and is being implemented, completion of the remedy will require many years. Therefore, restrictions will continue to be applied to water and land use within the affected area, and these restrictions, as well as activities associated with local remediation actions and events, will continue to influence land and water use in the region. In the long term, stabilization and removal of contaminated tailings and sediments will lead to reduced impacts on water resources.

Road construction, maintenance, and use are among the major causes of sediment erosion and associated water quality and drainage impacts. While no net increase in roads is expected on BLM lands, road construction and use to facilitate timber harvest, recreational access, and to a lesser extent mineral development, will continue to occur throughout the region. In recent years this activity has slowed, techniques for road building have improved, and regulatory and planning restrictions on roads have become more effective in reducing impacts on water resources. Therefore, the contribution of road construction and use to the net impacts on water resources is expected to gradually decrease over time.

Population growth can put increased demand on water resources. In the CdA FO region, high quality water supplies are plentiful in most areas. Increased municipal demand is not expected to stress the available supply, and there is limited agricultural and industrial demand. Demand for hydroelectric power, is increasing, but there is intense public resistance to siting new dams in the region, and most feasible sites have already been developed. Protection of migratory fish and preservation of Wild and Scenic Rivers also preclude the siting of new dams.

Increased population density and intensity of recreational use can lead to degradation of water resources. For example, increased lakeshore housing development can lead to water pollution; increased boating and other water-based activities can lead to water pollution; increased road density, camping facilities, trail use, and other uses can also contribute to water quality impairment. Although it is expected that demand for recreational opportunities will continue to increase, and impacts on water resources are likely to increase from this sector, the net impacts on water resources will decrease as other activities with more substantial impacts are reduced.

The cumulative impacts under each of the alternatives on water resources would be very similar and would generally parallel the impacts of the alternatives alone. Alternative A involves the fewest restrictions on resource productivity, so would least support growth of recreation-based economic activity. In the long-term, the continued decline in economic importance of the forest products, ranching, and mineral industries, and increased economic importance of tourism and recreational industries, due to factors independent of BLM management, may further reduce the importance of BLM management directed at maximizing resource productivity. Improvements in water resources will continue to occur in response to increased regulation of water resources under the Clean Water Act, and other existing legislation. Alternatives B and D would more

proactively encourage greater protection of water resources than Alternative A; it would not provide as much protection as Alternative C, with the exception that catastrophic fires may be more probable under Alternative C (more accumulation of fuel) than under Alternatives B and D.

4.2.4 Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands

4.2.4.1 Methods of Analysis

BLM assessed the management objectives and actions of the alternatives to determine how they would change forested vegetation composition, structure, or seral stage. As described in Chapter 3, composition is indicated by component tree species and structure is indicated by seral stage. Fire is one of the primary indicators of function. Impacts were analyzed to determine their effect on restoring composition, structure, and function to historic conditions. Indicators of forest health (tree mortality, stocking levels, and insect and disease levels) are directly related to composition, structure, and function, and were also considered in this analysis.

4.2.4.2 Impacts

Impacts from Vegetation—Forest and Woodlands Management

Alternatives B, C, and D would complete the FORVIS inventory across the entire planning area to determine species composition and stocking levels. The amount of forest vegetation that would be treated ranges among alternatives from 1 percent to 12 percent. Treatments would move the composition, structure, and function of forest vegetation toward historic conditions. This would make the forest more resilient to insect infestations, disease, and fire. Effectiveness of treatments would vary among alternatives due to differences in acres to be treated, and types of silvicultural methods that would be used.

The remaining 88 - 99 percent of the forested vegetation would remain untreated. In this area nothing would be done to restore the forest vegetation types to their historic species mix, stocking levels, and structure. Therefore, stands would remain outside their normal range of variability. This would result in a forest that is less resilient to insect, disease, and fire due to high stand densities, existing disease and insect outbreaks, as well as increased fuel loading. Insect and disease activity are one of the most common sources of increased hazardous fuels in the planning area and are typically areas where forest health projects are conducted. As a result, it is estimated that less than one percent (Alternative C) to three percent (Alternative B) of areas impacted by insect/disease activity would be treated on an annual basis. Currently, 32 percent of all the forested vegetation occurs in areas where no treatment would be allowed to protect other resources.

Effects on untreated areas by cover type would be:

Dry Conifer Type: Dry conifer types, historically dominated by ponderosa pine, would continue to be encroached by Douglas-fir and smaller ponderosa pine, increasing the tree density and continuing to skew the seral stage distribution. Early-seral stands would progress to mid- and eventually late-seral stands, but they would be in a closed (not open) canopy structure, which is currently lacking. This closed canopy, dense structure would continue to exacerbate the FRCC problem (see the wildland fire management section). Fires that are less frequent but high in intensity and severity would eventually affect these forest types, potentially converting a large percentage to early seral. These fires would likely burn at a severity that effectively removes the live large tree component (where it exists) of these stands (Keane et al. 2002). Where only a few large trees survive, other trees killed by wildfires would remain as snags. In this situation, high-severity fire may result in soil damage that may limit the ability of these stands to successfully regenerate. Uncontrolled and unplanned fires burning in this type, given current and future fuel conditions, would exhibit fire effects outside of the historic conditions under which these sites developed. There is little opportunity for ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir to develop old growth characteristics under these conditions.

Wet/Cold Conifer Type: The Wet/Cold Conifer types, historically dominated by western larch, western white pine, lodge pole pine, mountain hemlock, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir with whitebark pine and Douglas-fir in lesser amount, would continue to lose the western white pine and white bark pine component due to blister rust. Douglas-fir would continue filling the niche once occupied by western white pine. This, combined with wildfire suppression would result in increased tree densities and thus accelerated movement of these stands to the late seral stages dominated by Douglas fir, subalpine fir, mountain hemlock, and Engelmann spruce. The early seral structure class is severely deficient and the mid seral structure class is nonexistent. Currently only 6 percent of the early seral structure class exists in this vegetation type. It is expected that the amount of the early seral structure that will move into the mid seral structure class will be negligible over the next 15 years. The only opportunity for maintaining or increasing the amount of the vegetation type in the early seral stage will be a result of wildfire. Without wildfire, it can be expected that the amount of this vegetation type in the early seral stage would decrease. Further, the closed canopy, dense structure composed of mostly species prone to root rot disease (Douglas-fir and true firs) would continue to exacerbate departure from historic fire conditions. Fires would likely burn at a severity that effectively removes the live large tree component (where it exists) of these stands and could cause soil damage, delaying regeneration of the affected areas. Where only a few large trees survive, other trees killed by wildfires would remain as snags. Further, with blister rust present, successful regeneration of western white pine would be virtually impossible, which could result in this species being lost to this vegetation type unless rust resistant seedlings are planted.

Wet/Warm Conifer Type: The Wet/Warm Conifer types, historically dominated by Douglas-fir, western larch, western white pine, and western red cedar with grand fir, western hemlock, ponderosa pine, and lodge pole pine in lesser amounts, would continue to lose the western white pine component due to blister rust. Douglas-fir and grand fir are filling the niche once occupied by western white pine. Early seral stands would progress to mid and eventually late seral stands, but they would most likely be in a closed (not open) canopy structure. Because of the increased stocking levels of Douglas-fir and grand fir, forest health in this vegetation type is declining due root rot, beetles, and other insects and diseases. Increased stand densities combined with increased mortality of Douglas-fir, western white pine, and grand fir would continue to exacerbate the departure from historic fire conditions. Fires that are less frequent but high in intensity and severity would eventually affect these forest types, potentially converting a large percentage to early seral stages. Fires would likely burn at a severity that effectively removes the live large tree component (where it exists) of these stands and could cause soil damage, delaying regeneration of the affected areas. Where only a few large trees survive, other trees killed by wildfires would remain as snags. Further, with blister rust present, successful regeneration of western white pine would be virtually impossible which could result in this species being lost to this vegetation type unless rust resistant seedlings are planted.

Alternative A: This alternative would not complete the FORVIS inventory but would use the existing 2002 FORVIS inventory and the 1993 extensive inventory to determine species composition, stocking levels, and diversity. Under Alternative A approximately 7,000 acres (eight percent) of the total forested vegetation, would be treated to restore forest health. About 92 percent of the forested vegetation would remain untreated. However, to put this into context, approximately 32 percent of all the forested vegetation occurs in areas where no treatment would be allowed to protect other resources. Acres of treatments by cover type are not specified because current management emphasizes production of forest products without regard to vegetation type. Historically projects were conducted where forest health was considered to be in jeopardy – vegetation type was not considered significant. Management actions emphasize reduction of stand density, as well as returning species composition to historic conditions, but do not consider restoration of structure to

historic conditions. The most likely result of most treatment actions would be to maintain the mid and late seral stages and movement of many of the early seral stages toward the mid seral stages. Sustaining the early seral stages is likely to be minimal unless treatment to improve forest health required some kind of silvicultural regeneration treatment which is mostly likely to occur in the Wet/Cold vegetation type. Impacts by cover type are discussed below.

Dry Conifer. Management actions in this type would strive to restore historic composition, structure, and function by removing excess trees, concentrating on Douglas-fir, grand fir, and grand fir ingrowth, and reforesting with ponderosa pine. This would result in a species composition that more closely resembles the historic species distribution and would create more early seral structure. Currently 61 percent of the stands in this type are mid seral closed and nine percent are late seral closed. Removing the excess trees would move some of these stands back to a more open seral condition. Vegetation treatments in the early seral stages would encourage movement to a mid seral stage. Treatments in a mid seral stage would encourage movement toward a late seral stage.

Wet/Cold Conifer. Management action in this type would remove excess trees, concentrating on smaller diameter diseased and insect-infested grand fir and Douglas-fir, and retaining healthy Douglas-fir and western white pine. This would result in a species composition that more closely resembles the historic species distribution and would create more early-seral structure. Due to the emphasis on treatments inside the WUI, where this vegetation type occurs least, this type could receive the least amount of treatment.

Wet/Warm Conifer. Management actions in this type would reduce stocking levels of grand fir and Douglas-fir and increase stocking levels of western larch and western white pine. Silvicultural treatments would most likely strive to move stands toward the next stage in seral development. Both white pine and larch are moderately shade-intolerant, so successful treatment would also affect structure by reducing canopy cover and stocking. With the natural loss of white pine, maintaining the structure so that it can progress to a late-seral stage while maintaining the appropriate species composition is difficult in this type. Promoting historic structure and composition in this type would make it less susceptible to disease such as root rot in grand fir and more resistant to the effects of wildland fire. Western red cedar would not generally be affected because it occurs most abundantly in riparian zones, where treatments would not occur. When western red cedar occurs outside of riparian zones, removal would result in short-term slight reductions in this component.

Alternative B: This alternative calls for restoration treatment of at least 9,600 acres, or approximately 12 percent of the total forested vegetation. This is four percent more than Alternative A. More forested vegetation would be restored to historic composition and function under this alternative, than any other. Approximately 88 percent of the forest vegetation would not be treated. However, to put this into context, approximately 32 percent of all the forested vegetation occurs in areas where no treatment would be allowed to protect other resources. When applying treatments in the vicinity of old growth stands (a component of late seral structural stages), treatments would fully maintain, or contribute toward the restoration of the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the pre-fire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type.

Dry Conifer. Treatments would promote retention of larger trees in stands where ponderosa pine are present and healthy (insect and disease levels are endemic). Over very long periods (more than 50 years), repeated low-intensity disturbance (such as fire or thinning) that removes smaller ingrowth would increase the representation of mid seral and late seral structural stages, which are currently underrepresented, particularly the late-seral stage. This would move the structural stage distribution to more closely represent the historic

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condition of this cover type. Old growth ponderosa pine stands are underrepresented in northern Idaho (mid seral, open), and this alternative would promote development and preservation of old growth ponderosa pine. It is estimated that approximately 3,400 acres in the cover type would be treated over a 15-year period.

In areas where ponderosa pine was the historic cover type, the ponderosa pine component has been lost through insect infestation, disease, fire exclusion, stand-replacing fire, or harvesting; restoration would necessarily require vegetation treatments by removing most of the current stand and planting ponderosa pine. Ponderosa pine is shade-intolerant and requires open tree canopies to reproduce and thrive. This type of treatment would increase the acres that would be considered early seral, which would move the structure component more in line with historic seral stage distribution because early seral is underrepresented in the dry conifer cover type.

In habitat types that were historically covered with Douglas-fir, treatments could include removing insect-infested and diseased trees and reducing understory density. These treatments would not affect species composition but would have some effect on structure by promoting the mid seral open and late seral structural stages. Where stand density is reduced, remaining trees would not have to compete for water and nutrients and would be under less stress, making them more able to withstand insect attack. Douglas-fir is the most common type of old growth in northern Idaho, although it is not particularly long-lived, unlike coastal Douglas-fir. By the time Douglas-fir reach 230 years, they are exceedingly susceptible to Douglas-fir bark beetles and drought (Powers et al. 1999).

Wet/Cold Conifer: This alternative could treat the most acres in this cover type. It is estimated that approximately 5,200 acres in the cover type would be treated over a 15-year period. With the emphasis on regeneration harvest followed by reforestation with western white pine and western larch, more acres would be returned to the early seral structural stage, which is currently underrepresented in this cover type. Thinning and other stand density reduction treatments could move some stands into the mid seral stages which are also below historic levels.

Wet/Warm Conifer: Treatments in this type would reduce stocking levels of grand fir and would increase larch and white pine. These treatments would change the composition by removing grand fir and planting both white pine and larch. Both white pine and larch are moderately shade-intolerant, so successful treatment would also affect structure by reducing canopy cover and stocking. With the natural loss of white pine, maintaining the structure so that it can progress to a late-seral stage while maintaining the appropriate species composition is difficult. Promoting appropriate structure and composition in this type would make it less susceptible to disease such as root rot in grand fir, would reduce insect infestations, and would make it more resilient during fire. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 acres in the cover type would be treated over a 15-year period.

Alternative C: This alternative allows for restoration treatment of at least 1,200 acres (no acreage specified for inside the WUI or outside the WUI), which is approximately one percent of the forested vegetation. This is 83 percent less than current management, and approximately 99 percent of the total forested area would receive no treatment. However, to put this into context, approximately 32 percent of all the forested vegetation occurs in areas where no treatment would be allowed to protect other resources. Silvicultural treatments are limited under this alternative. Therefore, in addition to fewer acres being treated, the effectiveness of moving the three vegetation types may not be as effective (moving more slowly toward to the goal) compared to the other three alternatives. Most management actions would be part of mitigation

measures applied to forest vegetation experiencing natural disturbances, which in most cases would be wildfire.

Dry Conifer. Where treatments occur, effects would be similar to those described under Alternative B. At the level of treatment proposed, restoration is limited to a small percentage of the type. For this reason, effects on this type would continue as under current conditions. It is estimated that approximately 400 acres in the cover type would be treated over a 15-year period.

Wet/Cold Conifer. Treatments in this cover type would result in reducing the amount of Douglas-fir and grand fir, and increasing the amount of western white pine. It is estimated that approximately 700 acres in the cover type would be treated over a 15-year period. Naturally generated white pine is susceptible to white pine blister rust, but white pines that have been selected for their natural resistance to the disease have been reproduced in nurseries and are available for planting in the hope that they can survive and reproduce in the wild.

Wet/Warm Conifer. Where treatments occur, effects would be similar to those described under Alternative B. It is estimated that approximately 100 acres in the cover type would be treated over a 15 -period. At the level proposed, not enough treatment would occur across the landscape to restore structure and composition to the extent that reductions in insect and disease would occur, nor would there be any increase in the acres that developed into old growth.

Alternative D: This alternative calls for restoration treatment of at least 8,200 acres, or approximately 10 percent of the forested vegetation. This is only two percent more than Alternative A. Approximately 90 percent of the forest vegetation would not be treated. However, to put this into context, approximately 32 percent of all the forested vegetation occurs in areas where no treatment would be allowed to protect other resources. It is estimated that approximately 2,900 acres in the Dry Conifer cover type, 4,500 acres in the Wet/Cold Conifer cover type, and 800 acres in the Wet/Warm cover type would be treated over a 15-year period. Effects would be the same as Alternative B, adjusted slightly for the difference in acres treated. Alternative D allows for a wider range of silvicultural treatments (including fire) than any other alternative. Therefore treatments would likely be more effective at restoring historic conditions.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Fish and wildlife habitat management direction impacts forest vegetation primarily through restrictions it places on vegetation treatments.

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) contain requirements and methods for protecting native fish habitat, including water quality. These include maintaining bank stability and adequate riparian vegetation cover. The protections affect riparian areas and landslide-prone areas, and allow silvicultural treatments in RHCAs only to acquire desired vegetation characteristics where needed to attain RMOs, and allow fuel wood removal only in areas where severe blowdown or loss to insects had occurred. Riparian areas with mostly conifer vegetation are classified as wet/warm conifer type. Other riparian areas contain broadleaf trees. Wet/warm conifer is overabundant in mid seral classes, but late-seral classes are underrepresented compared to historic conditions. A lack of disturbance in this type would allow some of these mid seral acres to eventually transition into the late-seral class, which would more closely represent historic conditions.

These restrictions would likely prohibit treatments for improving species composition and structure in wet/cold conifer and dry conifer sites on upland landslide-prone areas; however, vegetation management goals can be met outside of these areas.

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Alternative A: Maintaining a 100-yard buffer around raptor nests would restrict vegetation treatments within a 6.5 acre area around each nest site, which may reduce the effectiveness of some vegetation treatments where undesirable trees must be left in the buffer. These would then continue to produce seed, affecting the species composition and structure, and could eventually increase fuel levels.

Deer, elk, and moose habitat is within all the forested vegetation cover types in the planning area. Direction for management of big game habitat may limit the effectiveness of vegetation treatments to achieve historic conditions in these areas.

Small clearcuts for grouse habitat would be consistent with the goal of using vegetation treatments. When applied in the appropriate situation, clearcuts would result in increased early seral vegetation.

Since this alternative does not call for treatment of all the mature forest, some old growth, a partial component of late seral structure, could continue to develop over time. However, there are no specific protections for old growth included, so it would not necessarily be preserved.

Alternative B: Impacts would be similar to Alternative A. However, maintaining stand structure in a 50-yard buffer for raptors would provide fewer restrictions on treatments, decreasing reduced effectiveness of stand-replacing treatments. A 50-yard buffer amounts to approximately 1.5 acres per nest. Treatments to improve structure and species composition would still be effective in the forested stand with these buffers. Restricting human activity within a 50-yard buffer around active raptor nests would not have a noticeable impact on forested vegetation, other than those described above.

Also, maintaining and enhancing old growth forest stands (a component of late-seral forest) for furbearer habitat would maintain, enhance, and possibly increase late-seral closed conditions. Late-seral closed forest is overabundant in the wet/cold type. This action would prohibit restoring the historic structure in this type in some areas. However, late seral is underrepresented in other cover types, so enhancement and maintenance would be consistent with returning to historic conditions.

Alternative C: Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternatives A and B. The buffer for raptor nests would be 100 yards, as in Alternative A.

This alternative differs from Alternatives A and B, in that there are no actions to improve or protect grouse habitat, as would occur under all other alternatives. Forest vegetation would be minimally managed, and natural recovery would likely improve long-term benefits to grouse during the life of the plan.

There is more emphasis on retaining large trees, and maintaining and enhancing old growth/late successional forests over that described under Alternative B. Alternative C calls for retention of all trees over 21 inches to provide future snags. This requirement would curtail the effectiveness of some treatments to correct species composition or structure. Particularly in the dry conifer cover type, fire cannot be easily reintroduced without some pretreatment to reduce fuels, and without pretreatment, fires would be more likely to kill or partially consume larger diameter trees and logs. In Wet/Cold and Wet/Warm conifer types, large tree retention can be more easily incorporated into treatments while meeting goals. However, fires in these types are often stand-replacing, so it is important to recognize that restoring fire to its natural role would result in a loss of some of the trees, snags, and logs over 21 inches. Removing trees of all sizes that are adversely affecting the species composition and structural stage distribution is required in the forested vegetation types. Some larger older trees are more able to withstand fire, but in situations where there is a buildup of fuel and ladder fuels,

even these would be lost. Some trees over 21 inches in diameter may need to be removed to protect public safety or may be removed by firewood cutting.

All forested vegetation treatments could result in a “take” of a migratory birds, depending on the determination of a take, which would effectively eliminate all forested vegetation treatments between May 15 and July 15. This is often the period when spring prescribed burns would occur. This requirement would often eliminate the use of prescribed fire to reduce fuels, preventing the opportunity for fire to return to its historical role.

Also, this alternative calls for uneven-aged silvicultural management techniques, which may not be appropriate in all of the forested vegetation types, depending on the objective. For example, where changing the species composition is important, uneven-aged management may not be appropriate.

Alternative D: Impacts from fish and wildlife are same as Alternative B, except that the buffer of 50 (urban/rural areas) or 100 yards (outside urban/rural areas) around raptor nests would have the same effect as described in Alternatives B and A respectively.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Restrictions (e.g., RCAs, timing, avoidance) for protection and recovery of special status species, including riparian buffers under INFISH or CNFISH (depending on the alternatives), could impact when and where vegetation management activities may occur. Treatment goals for each alternative could be met across the planning area by managing vegetation where threatened and endangered plants and animals do not occur or where the actions would protect and conserve the species. Special protection for sensitive species could prohibit correcting forest species composition and structure in some areas.

Actions to preserve snags for snag- and cavity-dependent species could require adjustments in vegetation treatments. In order to meet treatment goals, BLM may need to alter the size, timing, or prescription of treatments, but not enough to affect overall species composition and structure for a vegetation type.

When additional species are added to the special status species list (or removed), related impacts on opportunities for achieving the goals for forest and woodland vegetation could result.

In addition, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) identify conservation measures for caribou, lynx, and wolves that could affect forest vegetation. Caribou habitat occurs in the northern part of the CdA FO, where the vegetation cover types are largely wet/cold conifer. As the major agent of change under this alternative, restricting fires to small areas would limit the acres of this type that could be restored to historic conditions, including structure and composition, by use of fire. Effects from this would be minimal, as only 89 acres of this habitat occurs in the CdA FO. Standards identified in the Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment could delay implementation of treatments to change the composition and structure of forested vegetation, particularly wet/cold conifer, by prohibiting thinning of seedling-sized trees in lynx habitat. This would affect 502 acres of lynx habitat. These treatments could occur when the trees have surpassed the seedling size, and therefore could be successfully implemented at a later date. Conservation measures for wolves would restrict activities on 2,010 acres of habitat during part of the spring. This would limit activities to improve species composition and structure in some locations.

Alternative D: Impacts under Alternative D would be the same as Alternative B, except as follows.

Alternative D contains additional measures to conserve threatened and endangered species. These conservation measures include limiting motorized access to species habitat, timing limitations on authorized actions, modifying any activity impacting a threatened or endangered species, and reviewing fire management plans for consistency with conservation measures. Impacts from access restrictions would be the same as described under Travel Management and Transportation. Timing requirements may influence the timing and scheduling of vegetation management actions but are not expected to eliminate or make them less effective, and therefore, timing would not affect the overall species composition or structure of forests. The requirement to modify actions which impact listed species could impact vegetation management, depending on the species affected, and could potentially limit treatments designed to improve forest composition and structure or reduce the risk of insect and disease mortality. Reviewing fire management plans and modifying them could affect species composition and structure, depending on what the modification entails and where the modification occurs. The same can be said for restrictions on burning some areas, such as areas adjacent to white sturgeon critical habitat. Requirements for MIST and the location of fire base camps may affect fire suppression and result in more acres burned.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Fire affects forest structure and is one component of forest ecosystem function. Fire suppression over the past 100 years is one of the leading causes for the departure of forest vegetation from historic structure and function. Low intensity fire can thin stands, thereby promoting open mid- and late-seral stages, and removing undesirable species. High-intensity fire can be stand-replacing, returning stands to the early seral stage.

As called for under all alternatives, repairing or improving fire-damaged lands may include replanting with trees; assuming the appropriate species are used, this would improve the species composition and create healthy early-seral forest in all vegetation types.

Fuel reductions, thinnings, and WUI treatments would occur under all alternatives, and can affect forest structure but would not affect species composition, unless overrepresented species are specifically targeted. Fuel reduction and thinning could change the structure from closed to open where treatments occur. Over time, these treatments could reduce the acres of forest burned by wildland fire, affecting early-seral and late-seral structural stages. If this reduction includes a reduction of stand-replacing fire, it would serve to maintain the desired species composition.

Under current management, fire suppression would continue to create species composition and structural stages that do not match the historic conditions, and prevent fire from resuming its historic role as a component of historic function.

Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D), appropriate management response would consider the impacts from wildland fire and determine when it is appropriate to let areas burn or to provide emergency stabilization actions. Species composition and structure would generally become more like historic conditions. In the long term, more areas would be suitable to allowing fire to play a more natural role, because fuel conditions would be more like what was represented historically.

The action alternatives also allow for wildland fire use on 52,319 acres as a tool to return fire to its historic role. Fire use can also help restore historic species composition and structure in all the forested vegetation types. Over time, wildland fire use could reduce the acres of forest burned by unwanted wildland fire, affecting early-seral and late-seral structural stages. If this reduction includes a reduction of stand-replacing fire, it would serve to maintain the desired species composition.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

VRM Class I is the most restrictive VRM classification, but only occurs in WSAs where management actions for forest vegetation are generally prohibited. Impacts of WSAs are discussed below under Impacts from Special Designations.

VRM II classification allows only low levels of change to the landscape. Vegetation treatments designed to meet this objective may be less effective at restoring historic conditions. VRM Class II designation would not prevent vegetation management goals from being accomplished, because acres outside of VRM Class II areas could be treated to meet the goals. Restrictions from VRM II could lengthen the time needed to return designated areas to historic conditions, due to limitations on the area to be treated, and/or the amount of vegetation that may be removed or altered. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over the current area), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over the current area).

VRM Classes III and IV allow moderate and major changes to the visual landscape respectively and therefore would not affect forest vegetation.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Forestry activities would be accomplished to meet vegetation treatment goals and objectives; therefore, the effects of forestry and woodland products are discussed in Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

The use of renewable energy sources (under Alternative A) or biomass for energy (under Alternatives B, C, and D) could affect forested vegetation structure in the future by removing small-sized trees. Currently, and for the foreseeable future, biomass used for renewable energy is a byproduct of forest vegetation treatments and is material that normally would be piled, burned, or left in place. Future use could include removing small trees of any species for the sole purpose of renewable energy. This could impact forest composition and structure by reducing the acres of early-seral stage, which is lacking in dry conifer and wet/cold conifer, or reducing the mid seral stage, which is overabundant in all forested vegetation types.

Impacts from Special Designations:

Farnham Forest and Lund Creek RNA/ACECs would promote old growth forest. There are also 19,077 acres of forested vegetation within WSAs. No vegetation treatments are allowed within the WSAs. The impact on these acres would be as described above for the untreated area under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. Vegetation treatments would also not be allowed within one-quarter mile of river segments which are eligible or suitable for wild designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or within some ACEC/RNAs (Hideaway Islands, Farnham Forest, and Lund Creek RNAs). However, most of these areas are within WSAs, and the small area that is not would have no notable impacts on forest vegetation.

4.2.4.3 Cumulative Effects

Effects on forested vegetation from any of the alternatives is overshadowed by reasonably foreseeable stand-replacing fires; continued fire suppression necessary due to the WUI situation and intermingled land ownership; and largescale insect and diseases that would continue throughout the planning period.

Revision of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan could result in more or less treatment of adjacent areas, although, because no decision has been made, the effects are unknown. Wildland fire management on US Forest Service lands will be determined in the plan decision, particularly areas where wildland fire use may

4.2.4 Vegetation – Forest and Woodlands

occur. BLM would need to coordinate with the US Forest Service on all wildland fire use actions and events. Wildland fire use on US Forest Service lands may allow species composition and structure of forests on BLM lands to remain unchanged, or to move further outside of historic conditions.

Additionally, decisions to increase the level of wildland fire use or prescribed fire, along with agricultural field burning could impact the BLM's ability to use wildland fire and prescribed fire for forested vegetation management due to air quality concerns and the need to meet other air quality requirements. This could postpone or eliminate fuel reductions or vegetation treatments to improve forest species composition and structure.

Root rot has and will continue to cause mortality in Douglas-fir and grand fir. When areas heavily infected with root rot are harvested, root rot disease often spreads to the residual Douglas-fir, grand fir, and any true firs. Insect infestations could be exacerbated by inappropriate management, which could affect BLM lands. Additionally, a lack of appropriate treatment or lack of wildfire suppression or fuel reduction treatments could cause more mortality on BLM lands when wildland fire or insects spread. These impacts could affect species composition and stand structure.

Population increases are likely to expand the WUI, which in turn could alter forest management, taking the emphasis off restoring historic composition and structure and focusing more on fuel reduction (albeit, these are sometimes the same). Additionally, the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan may alter forest management in the WUI as more money becomes available and mitigation plans are implemented. These activities could result in stand structure changes, but probably no species compositions changes.

Effects on forested vegetation due to management accomplished by other landowners could affect forested vegetation on federal lands. When activity fuels are not treated adequately on adjacent lands, fuel hazard could increase, affecting fire intensity and severity on BLM lands.

Timber companies and private land owners with large holdings within the planning area are generally managed for commercial gain. Likewise, state forested lands are usually managed by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to maximize revenue. These management strategies favor shorter rotations, resulting in forest ecosystems ranging from early seral stages (seedlings and saplings) to forests in mid-seral stages (early mature to mature). It is not cost effective to manage forests on these lands for mature or later seral stages, thus these forest ecosystems will not be allowed to develop beyond the mature stage. This applies to most but not all private forest lands, as some are never harvested, and others may be managed for other uses. The amount of private and state lands that are in early seral stages is not reflected in the historic conditions discussed in Chapter Three, which is an analysis of BLM lands only. Thus, at the regional or landscape scale, private and state lands would add to the quantity of lands currently in early and mid-seral stages.

The IPNF Analysis of the Management Situation for their plan revision, and their adherence to the ICBEMP Strategy, indicate that the USFS will also manage its lands in the planning area to restore historic composition, structure, and function. This strategy will likely promote development of more stands in later seral stages, compared to private and state management.

While Alternatives A and C should tend to move public lands to later seral stages in development, the objective on BLM lands under these alternatives is to achieve the historic species composition, not structure. On the other hand, restoring historic structure is an objective for Alternatives B and D, which would generally promote later seral stages. BLM management of stands for later seral stages would compliment

USFS management, while management on private and state lands would generally add to the occurrence of early and mid-seral stages on federal lands. However, some treatments on federal lands (e.g., treatments of insect infestations or diseased stands) would return stands to early seral stages, adding to private and state lands in these stages. Also, lack of treatment in root rot areas, widespread mountain pine beetle attack, or even ice/wind storms can return stands on federal lands to early seral.

IDL and many larger timber companies often reforest treated lands with Ponderosa pine, western larch, and rust-resistant western white pine. IPNF restores historic species composition through reforestation. When combined with these land owners, BLM actions that would restore historic composition under all alternatives would contribute to regional restoration of historic species composition. However, other private lands may be artificially reforested with the cheapest available seedlings or may not be artificially reforested, relying instead on natural regeneration to reforest their lands. In these cases, reforestation would usually allow non-historic species composition to return or continue, adding to the deviation from historic conditions on untreated BLM lands.

4.2.5 Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands

4.2.5.1 Methods of Analysis

The health of riparian zones and wetlands is measured by water quality, vegetative cover and diversity, and various functions such as the area's ability to stabilize shorelines and stream banks, delay flood water, filter sediment, and aid in floodplain development. Other parameters used to determine riparian and wetland health include having the age class and structural diversity of vegetation that is appropriate for the site and the occurrence of noxious weed species. A healthy riparian zone will consist of a mixture of early, mid, and late seral stages with herbaceous and multi-aged woody species, more stable soils, plentiful vegetation production, and diversity of vegetation.

All of the factors mentioned above are used to determine whether a stream or wetland is in PFC. Impacts arise when an activity affects any of these parameters, which would in turn affect whether the area is in PFC, or moving toward PFC. Each alternative was analyzed to determine its effect on this indicator.

4.2.5.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soil Resources Management

All alternatives would require implementing appropriate BMPs to protect soil and water resources. Similarly, management activities under any of the alternatives must comply with the Idaho Forest Practices Act and the Clean Water Act, which establish additional BMPs and impose penalties for water quality degradation from eroded sediments. To reduce the potential for mass wasting, all alternatives also have special management requirements when actions are proposed in landslide prone areas. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) outline more specific direction (i.e., avoid locating roads or timber harvests on, or adjacent to landslides) than current management, so would have greater effect on reducing the potential for mass wasting. Reduced soil erosion and mass wasting would help maintain or improve the functioning condition of riparian and wetland vegetation.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, effective watershed management would result in healthy and diverse plant communities. Restricting surface disturbance around wetland/riparian areas, perennial surface waters, identified flood plains, and ephemeral channels would further protect vegetation from disturbance. Considering water quality standards and watershed guidelines during construction of other program actions and events would assist in achieving the desired plant and litter cover objectives. All of these would contribute to maintaining or improving functional conditions of riparian and wetland vegetation.

Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands Management

Actions under all alternatives aim to restore historic forest conditions. This would benefit overall forest ecosystem health, including riparian zones, thus promoting long-term increases in PFC. However, forest vegetation treatments would involve road construction and use, and prescribed burning, which can cause soil erosion, remove riparian vegetation, and allow noxious weeds to establish. These effects would be minimized by implementation of BMPs, requirements of INFISH/CNFISH, and noxious weed treatments, but the short-term impacts would still include some reduction in riparian areas that meet or are moving toward PFC. Alternative A would treat 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would result in an 83 percent reduction, while Alternative D would increase treatments 17 percent. Short- and long-term effects on riparian and wetland vegetation would be proportional to acres treated. Alternatives C and D would specifically conserve and restore aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands. This would maintain or

improve the functional condition of riparian areas because these species are often associated with riparian zones.

Impacts from Vegetation-Riparian and Wetlands

Completing a riparian assessment would allow for increased monitoring and development of realistic periodic goals. Over time, this would allow for more effective management of riparian resources, increasing the total in PFC. Implementation of INFISH and CNFISH would protect and enhance riparian and wetland vegetation, increasing and maintaining the amount of land in PFC. Current Management (Alternative A) and Alternatives C and D call for achieving PFC for 75 percent of riparian and wetland areas, while Alternative B only calls for 50 percent. Thus Alternative B would allow for more impacts on riparian and wetland vegetation than the other alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation-Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Weed management strategies under all alternatives would reduce competition between native riparian vegetation and invasive species, leading to healthier riparian zones, increasing areas in PFC.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife and Special Status Species Management

Implementing INFISH (Alternative A) or CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) would provide protection for riparian and wetland vegetation, thus maintaining or increasing areas in PFC.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Large, high intensity wildfires would remove the filtering duff layer in or near riparian areas. These large fires are far more likely to burn through riparian areas and impact whole drainages over the short and long term compared to smaller fires that fall within the natural range of variability. Under all alternatives, wildland fire suppression using the Appropriate Management Response would protect riparian vegetation from destruction, thus maintaining or improving areas in PFC. However, riparian vegetation could be affected if fire equipment needed to enter such zones for suppression tactics. Effects would include soil disturbance, which could facilitate weed growth, and loss of vegetation, which would degrade the functioning condition, compaction, and erosion. Implementing measures to stabilize burned areas within one year after fire containment would affect riparian areas by ensuring that proper conditions for vegetative regeneration would be present, thus promoting eventual return to PFC.

Fire suppression under Alternative A would take into consideration potential benefits to riparian vegetation from wildfire on a case-by-case basis, leading to increased habitat quality and areas in PFC over time. The action alternatives identify 52,319 acres where wildland fire use would be considered. The short-term effect of fire use would be removal of riparian vegetation and degradation of functioning condition. However, the return of fire to its natural role in the ecosystem would lead to long-term enhancement of riparian vegetation, which would increase the potential for achieving PFC.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact riparian and wetland vegetation through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs, where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation,

4.2.5 Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands

in these areas. While 12-15 percent (varying slightly by alternative) of this VRM II area is within RHCAs/RCAs where riparian vegetation is already protected, the constraints placed on actions within the remaining VRM II areas would reduce the potential for degradation of riparian functioning condition, corresponding in effect to the total area classified as VRM II.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

The impacts are the same as those described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock can impact riparian vegetation around watering locations by trampling and grazing plants, and by soil compaction, which reduces riparian species cover and diversity, and degrades functioning condition. Under Alternatives A and B, approximately 4,004 acres of land would be available for livestock grazing. Only 37 of these acres are within riparian zones. Alternatives C and D allocate only 1,218 acres for livestock grazing, with only 11 acres in riparian zones. Thus impacts on riparian vegetation from livestock grazing would be negligible under any alternative. Any impacts that might occur would be reduced by implementation of Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and grazing guidelines from INFISH/CNFISH.

Impacts from Minerals Management

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) state that mining leaseholders may only place facilities in riparian buffer zones if project-specific assessment reveals that there would be no adverse effect on inland native fish. Mining facilities must be situated outside of RHCAs, except when there is no practicable alternative, and when it can be done in such a way that riparian habitat goals would not be compromised. This would eliminate most potential impacts on riparian vegetation from mining. However, it does not totally eliminate the potential that mining operations could be located in riparian areas where mining waste, vegetation removal, and erosion could cause degradation to functioning condition. Implementing BMPs, under all alternatives, for road building, storm runoff, and erosion control would reduce the potential for these effects.

Currently (under Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more impacts on riparian vegetation than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Generally, removal of and other damage to riparian vegetation from recreational use would be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres of riparian vegetation within SRMAs. Under Alternative A, SRMAs would cover 871 acres of riparian vegetation. Riparian vegetation within SRMAs under Alternative B would total 6,851 acres, with 5,424 acres under Alternative C, and 7,519 under Alternative D.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts on riparian and wetland vegetation from extraction of biomass fuels would be the same as those identified from vegetation treatments under Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands. Road construction and use, or power line installation associated with wind energy development, could result in soil erosion or removal of riparian vegetation, which would degrade functioning conditions in riparian zones. Implementation of INFISH/CNFISH restrictions and BMPs under all alternatives would minimize these effects.

Impacts from Travel Management

OHV use (other than snowmobiles) can result in impacts on riparian vegetation, such as loss of vegetation cover and density, fragmentation of habitat, and composition changes. OHV users can introduce and spread noxious and invasive weeds. All of this would lead to degradation of the functioning condition within affected areas. In areas designated as open to off-road motorized travel, there is no restriction on vehicle uses within riparian areas, and thus no constraint on related impacts. In areas where motorized travel is limited to designated roads, impacts would be limited to those areas where designated roads run through or near riparian zones, thus greatly reducing widespread degradation. In areas closed to motorized vehicles, no impacts would occur. Thus, impacts from motorized vehicle travel would correspond to the amount of area designated open, limited, and closed under each alternative. Table 4.2.5-1 shows the acres with these designations within riparian buffer zones, by alternative.

Table 4.2.5-1 Acres of OHV Designations within Riparian Buffer Zones under All Alternatives

Alternative	Closed (acres)	Limited (acres)	Open (acres)
Alternative A	100	4,900	7,868
Alternative B	100	12,768	0
Alternative C	100	12,768	0
Alternative D	212	12,656	0

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

ROW authorizations and land use permits are generally for activities such as road construction or facilities development. Construction, road use, and heavy equipment can cause soil erosion or remove riparian vegetation resulting in degradation to the functioning condition. Under current management there are no restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related impacts on water resources could occur anywhere in the planning area, within the limits of INFISH restrictions. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) each identify ROW exclusion areas where no ROW authorizations or land use permits would be allowed, and where ROW avoidance areas authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. All RHCA/RCA are identified as avoidance areas under the action alternatives. In addition, between 3,623 and 3,732 acres of RHCA/RCA fall within ROW exclusion areas. In addition, when actions are authorized within RHCA or RCA, CNFISH restrictions would apply. Thus, potential impacts from lands and realty authorization on aquatic habitat would be greatly reduced as a result of the actions within this section of the action alternatives. Land tenure actions that would acquire riparian and wetland areas, such as has occurred in many locations on Lake Coeur d'Alene, would provide further preservation and protection of this resource.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations, such as ACECs, could help to protect riparian and wetland vegetation, thus maintaining or improving PFC, by limiting uses. Localized protective management of stream segments found eligible or suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation could provide similar protection.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Riparian vegetation would be protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on riparian vegetation are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect impacts on riparian vegetation.

4.2.5 Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands

Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would include protection of riparian vegetation. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which the BLM has only scattered ownership, and very little ability to influence riparian vegetation. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would actually be little added protection.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect riparian vegetation as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as unsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of riparian vegetation.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect riparian vegetation through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded. The portions of the Little North Fork Clearwater Headwaters ACEC that are outside of the Grandmother Mountain WSA, would be managed to protect habitat for fish, as would all of Wolf Lodge Bay ACEC, thus affording protection to riparian vegetation. All of Gamlin Lake and Killarney Lake ACECs would also emphasize protection of riparian and wetland habitat. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of the riparian vegetation that they contain. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

4.2.5.3 Cumulative Effects

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions other than those proposed under various alternatives in this RMP that may affect riparian and wetland resources include livestock grazing, wildland fire and wildland fire use and suppression, fuel and vegetation treatments including prescribed fire, timber harvest, mineral and energy development, population growth, increased public awareness of values of riparian areas, increased recreational use, OHV use, changes in access, restoration of riparian zones and watersheds, regional planning efforts, levels of weed management, and designation of special management areas. The types of effects that have occurred and would continue to occur include diminished habitat value due to disturbances from grazing, mining, and livestock grazing, improved habitat conditions from restoration efforts, introduction of weeds and an increase in conditions that favor weed populations, and changes in habitat value due to wildfire use and suppression.

Since the Emerald Empire MFP was adopted in 1981, there has been a tremendous increase in demand for motorized recreation. Four times more OHVs were registered in Kootenai County in 2003 than were registered for the entire state in 1981 (IDPR 2004). Advances in motorized recreational equipment have also increased OHV users' accessibility to areas that were previously remote and often inaccessible. Although this increase in demand is more often noticed in upland areas, effects are felt in riparian areas where trails fragment habitat and give users access to places that were formerly accessible only by foot, horseback, or boat.

Except in areas where prescribed fires have been implemented or wildland fire has been used for habitat improvements, suppression of wildland fire in the cumulative impact area has allowed for fuels buildup. The

effects of fuels buildup include allowing for hotter and more destructive fires that are more likely to burn riparian areas than fires that occur under natural conditions. Inappropriate burns may also reduce canopy cover in the short term, reducing a riparian areas roles in terms of cover for wildlife and retention of thermal quality. Although the proposed RMP addresses issues relating to fire use and suppression, this may not be the case in areas managed by other entities. In such cases, the overall effect to riparian zones throughout the cumulative impact area may include reduced efficacy as distribution corridors for fish and wildlife, due to varying degrees of the quality of habitat throughout a given stream corridor.

Function and value of riparian zones is addressed in several planning documents regarding large tracts of land in the cumulative impact area. The ICBEMP lists planning criteria specific to preservation and restoration of riparian areas. Management of the IPNF includes riparian preservation measures similar to those proposed by BLM for the CdA RMP. Effects of preserving and restoring riparian areas within the CdA FO include being part of a regional effort to preserve or enhance riparian habitat throughout northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and northwest Montana.

Historically, riparian zones have not been affected by noxious weeds to the same degree as upland or grassland areas. However, ongoing disturbance of soils and vegetation in riparian areas in and around the CdA FO has led to an increased risk of weed infestation, and such disturbance will likely increase with the increased public use of OHVs and possible increases in numbers of grazing livestock.

Actions related to mineral development have had an effect on riparian resources. Historic mining structures throughout the cumulative planning area have been constructed in riparian zones, to the detriment of soils and vegetation. Efforts on the part of land management agencies throughout the cumulative planning area to remediate AMLs will allow for restoration of the biological aspects of these sites. Furthermore, stipulations against siting mining facilities in riparian areas are in place in many parts of the planning area.

A projected increase in sand and gravel mining in the cumulative planning area could have direct effects on soils and substrate in riparian areas, leading to increased erosion and degradation of bank conditions.

Cumulative effects would be similar among the alternatives. Alternative A would contribute to more regional cumulative effects resulting from open OHV use, relatively high levels of grazing, and fewest number of riparian acres in NSOs. Alternatives B, C and D provide more management measures than Alternative A that would directly or indirectly reduce the potential for impacts. The emphasis in Alternative C on actions that value resource conservation, protection and minimal human intervention would have the least impact or risk of impacts to riparian and wetland resources and would contribute the least to cumulative impacts.

4.2.6 Vegetation – Nonforested

4.2.6.1 Methods of Analysis

Indicators that were used to quantitatively and qualitatively assess management changes that could affect nonforested vegetation management include the following:

- Change in acres of mid-elevation shrub and perennial grass
- Change in composition and structure
- Potential for invasive and noxious weed infestation

Impacts were determined by assessing which actions, if any, would change the vegetation occurrence, structure or composition, or allow for increased dominance of invasive weeds.

4.2.6.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soil Resources Management

All alternatives call for implementation of BMPs that would reduce the potential for erosion and loss of topsoil in nonforested areas, thus reducing potential for impacts on nonforested vegetation. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) outline more specific direction (i.e., avoid locating roads or timber harvests on or adjacent to landslides) than current management, so would have greater effect on reducing the potential for mass wasting that could damage or destroy nonforested vegetation.

Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands Management

Impacts on nonforested areas from forest and woodlands management would be indirect under all alternatives and would relate to fire treatments and the need to access treatment areas through nonforested areas. Fuels treatments that reduce the chances of catastrophic wildland fire in forested areas would reduce the chances of such fires spreading into nonforested areas. Forest vegetation treatments that require the construction of access roads, fire breaks, or staging areas in nonforested areas would allow for greater weed dispersal and loss of nonforested vegetation. The magnitude of these impacts would somewhat correspond with the number of acres treated. Current management would result in treatment of approximately 7,000 acres. Alternative B calls for at least a 37 percent increase in treated areas, while Alternative C calls for an 83 percent reduction over current management. Alternative D would involve a 17 percent increase over current levels.

Impacts from Vegetation-Nonforested Management

Alternative A: Current management only calls for meeting Idaho Rangeland Standards and Guidelines. This would require maintenance of existing native plant communities. It would also require nonnative plant species used for restoration to be appropriate for the restoration site. These actions would minimize potential for changes to composition and structure, and help prevent spread of noxious weeds.

Alternative B: This alternative is a little more specific about preventing tree species invasion (preventing changes in acres of occurrence of nonforest vegetation), but otherwise calls for natural recovery, which would offer the least protection of nonforest vegetation of any alternative.

Alternatives C and D: These alternatives specify the same action regarding tree invasion as Alternative B. However, these alternatives also require active prevention of off-road motorized vehicle use in nonforested areas, leading to less disturbance of soil, and vegetation, and less opportunity for invasion by noxious weeds.

This alternative also calls for active restoration through seeding, which would enhance the native plant base – composition and structure.

Impacts from Vegetation-Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Weed management alternatives under all alternatives would directly affect nonforested vegetation areas equally by reducing or controlling the degree to which plants would have to compete with weeds.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

All alternatives call for closing certain roads. This would decrease chances of noxious weed transport and soil disturbance in all vegetation types where such management would occur.

All alternatives call for protection and enhancement of big game habitat. Since nonforested vegetation provides most big game forage, such objectives and related actions would result in maintenance or increases in nonforested vegetation. Alternatives C and D are more specific, and call for rejuvenation and enhancement of the shrub and herb (nonforested vegetation) components for big game winter ranges.

All alternatives, except Alternative C, call for creating small, temporary clearcuts for grouse habitat. This would result in more nonforested vegetation in the short term.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Under all alternatives, full fire suppression would promote encroachment of forested vegetation into areas with nonforested vegetation, resulting in less nonforested vegetation over time. Activities associated with fire suppression can also spread noxious weeds. Appropriate management response would consider areas where full suppression is not appropriate. Wildland fire suppression would also result in persistent shrubs becoming decadent and increasing fuel loading in these areas, increasing the chances of hot, destructive wildland fires in the future, further reducing nonforested vegetation and potentially changing its composition and structure. Such fires can also create conditions that promote spread of noxious weeds. Although current management does not identify any fire use areas, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) identify 52,319 acres where wildland fire use would be considered. This could result in burning of both forested and nonforested vegetation, which could lead to more nonforested vegetation in the short-term. However, in the long-term forested vegetation would return to previously occupied areas. Once fire has returned to its natural role, returning forested and nonforested vegetation would be more resilient.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

VRM Class I is the most restrictive VRM classification, but only occurs in Wilderness Study Areas (WSR) where management actions that would affect vegetation are generally prohibited. Impacts from WSAs are discussed below under Impacts from Special Designations.

VRM II classification allows only low levels of change to the landscape. This would generally result in maintenance of existing nonforested vegetation, or would allow change to occur over long periods of time so that the change to the landscape is not noticeable. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations).

VRM Classes III and IV allow moderate and major changes to the visual landscape respectively, and would place no meaningful restrictions on actions that would affect nonforested vegetation.

4.2.6 Vegetation – Nonforested

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Impacts from forestry and woodland products management would be the same as described in Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands Management, above.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Generally, removal of and other damage to nonforested vegetation from recreational use, would be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus the potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 246 acres of nonforested vegetation within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 5,138 acres. Under Alternative C, 4,475 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 6,070 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on nonforested vegetation more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Transportation Management

OHV use would result in impacts on nonforested vegetation, such as loss of vegetation cover, density, and composition changes. OHV users would introduce and spread noxious and invasive weed seeds from their vehicles, shoes, clothing, and recreational equipment. As OHV use increases, people from outside the area could bring in noxious and invasive weeds, including new invasive species. OHV activities in undisturbed and remote areas have the potential to distribute weed seeds into weed-free areas. The travel management section of the alternatives focuses on management direction for motorized vehicle use. In areas open to off-road motorized vehicle use, impacts can be widespread. In areas where motorized use is limited to designated roads, impacts would be concentrated. In these areas management actions, such as treatments for noxious weeds, could be more effectively implemented to mitigate impacts. No impacts would occur in areas closed to motorized vehicles. No notable impacts would occur from snowmobile use. Table 4.2.6-1 shows the acres of nonforested vegetation with motorized vehicle designations by alternative.

Table 4.2.6-1 Motorized Vehicle Designations on Nonforested Vegetation by Alternative

Alternative	Closed (Acres)	Limited (acres)	Open (acres)
A	35	2,471	5,328
B	35	7,899	0
C	41	7,793	0
D	135	7,699	0

Impacts from Lands and Realty

The installation of utility systems and other ROW actions would result in short-term vegetation removal until the area has been reclaimed. Shrubs would return over a longer time period. Long-term impacts would mostly be associated with the construction of access routes. Increased erosion and decreased vegetation cover would occur from soil compaction and the channelization of surface runoff in ruts and road ditches. Areas below mid-slope roads would become drier, which reduces plant productivity and can potentially change species composition.

Alternative A: Under current management there are no restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus, related nonforested vegetation could occur anywhere in the planning area. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) each identify ROW exclusion areas where no ROW authorizations or land use permits would be allowed, and ROW avoidance areas authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. The table below shows acres within ROW exclusion and avoidance areas, by alternative.

Table 4.2.6-2 Nonforested Vegetation within ROW Restrictions by Alternative

Alternative	ROW Exclusion (acres)	ROW Avoidance (acres)
A	0	0
B	1,355	2,369
C	1,859	4,652
D	1,380	936

Impacts from Special Designations Management

This plan does not designate WSAs; however, existing WSAs contain approximately 1,355 acres of nonforest vegetation. Most activities that would impact nonforested vegetation are not allowed within WSAs. As discussed in previous sections, most of the other special designations (ACEC/RNA, WSR eligible/suitable) identified in the alternatives overlap with the WSAs, thus not affording any additional protection. Additional protection would be provided to the grassland remnant community at Windy Bay through RNA/ACEC designation, which includes ROW exclusion.

4.2.6.3 Cumulative Effects

Much of the nonforested vegetation in the CdA FO is noncontiguous, meaning that it is heavily affected by management actions aimed at other resources. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions that are relevant to nonforested vegetation in the cumulative assessment area include wildland fire and wildland fire use and suppression, fuel and vegetation treatments including prescribed fire, timber harvest, mineral and energy development, population growth, growth in recreational uses, and OHV use. Population growth has caused development of nonforested areas and would continue to put pressure on nonforested areas. For example, valley bottoms and Rathdrum Prairie around Coeur d'Alene have been converted to urban/rural uses. Additional types of impacts that have occurred and would continue to occur include conversion to other habitat types, loss of area from mining, weed encroachment, and disturbances from OHV use.

Although nonforested vegetation comprises only a small percentage of the CdA FO, it is more widespread in surrounding areas. However, nonforested vegetation types are of increasing importance since much of what was historically grassland and shrubland of the cumulative assessment area has been converted to other cover types or has been heavily grazed. For example, much of adjacent eastern Washington has been converted to farmland from Palouse Prairie, which was formerly almost exclusively grassland. Likewise, a much higher percentage of the adjacent CFO is nonforested.

Effects throughout the cumulative assessment area from OHV use would increase as the number of OHV users increase. Effects would include soil disturbance, loss of vegetation, and habitat fragmentation from trail development.

Fire suppression in many areas, especially the WUI, would continue to affect grasslands by favoring woody species, leading to the encroachment of shrubs and trees. Wildland fire use and use of prescribed fire throughout the cumulative assessment area could result in improved conditions in nonforested vegetation by letting fire play its natural role in the ecosystem.

Because access through nonforested areas is often easier than through forested areas, such areas may be indirectly affected by mining and logging in adjacent areas. Restrictions on roads in many areas will diminish these effects to a certain degree, but if the overall trend in northern Idaho is towards greater resource utilization, such effects will increase over time throughout the cumulative assessment area.

4.2.6 Vegetation – Nonforested

Although nonforested areas in the CdA FO are not grazed by livestock, this habitat type can be severely affected by grazing practices in adjacent areas. Livestock grazing management varies according to the agency that manages a given landscape, so it is difficult to determine a trend towards greater or fewer effects from grazing.

4.2.7 Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

4.2.7.1 Methods of Analysis

Objectives and actions for each alternative were analyzed to determine whether they would change the occurrence of noxious weeds.

4.2.7.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soil Resources

Management actions under all alternatives which are aimed at maintaining or improving soil conditions and minimizing soil erosion would also maintain or improve the condition of vegetation. In order to assure protection, management activities would incorporate BMPs (see Appendix A), require reclamation, and limit surface disturbance on sensitive or erosive soils. The effect of soil management would be to improve overall ecological conditions for native vegetation, while reducing the potential for invasive and noxious weeds to invade and expand their range.

Impacts from Water Resources

Effective watershed management would result in healthy and diverse plant communities and would minimize the establishment of noxious and invasive weeds. Minimizing erosion and protecting the soil would help decrease the potential for weed establishment and spread.

Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands Management

Treatment actions under all alternatives could include building new access and skidder roads, constructing staging areas, and vegetative alterations that would result in disturbance to soils and native vegetation. Trucks and equipment used to conduct treatments would likely spread noxious weeds into these disturbed areas. BMPs would reduce the potential for these impacts, but have proven not to be completely effective against the spread of weeds. Prescribed burns would occur in the cool seasons (April–June and September–November). These burns are usually much cooler on the soil surface and would not burn most root crowns of herbaceous plants. Following prescribed fire, native plants return with increased vigor, which reduces the likelihood of weed infestations. In the short term, any disturbance would have the potential to increase the potential for weed spread and invasion. In the long term, forests in treated areas would become more resistant to fire and disease, thus reducing opportunities for spread of weeds. Impacts would be proportional to the number of acres treated. Alternative A would treat approximately 7,000 acres. Alternative B would result in at least a 37 percent increase, while Alternative C would reduce treatments 83 percent. Alternative D would result in at least a 17 percent increase in treated area over current management.

Impacts from Vegetation-Riparian and Wetlands Management

Weeds can affect reestablishment of riparian and wetland vegetation and vegetative patterns, which can significantly affect restoration and long-term ecosystem health, as well as the ability to achieve PFC. Although weeds are not directly mentioned in the definition of PFC, effects of weed infestation could be sufficient to impair riparian function. Therefore, measures to ensure PFC of riparian areas would necessarily include an effective weed management program, resulting in better management control over weed populations. Alternatives A, C, and D set an objective of 75 percent of riparian areas being in PFC. Alternative B sets an objective of only 50 percent, and would thus be least effective at increasing management control over weed populations.

4.2.7 Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

Impacts from Vegetation-Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

All alternatives are specifically designed to contain the spread of weeds and to prevent new outbreaks. Although implementing the objectives and actions would not necessarily contain weed populations throughout the CdA FO, doing so would ensure that all management actions across the spectrum of resource topics would contain weed control components. Furthermore, following procedures in the Cooperative Weed Management Area Operating Plans would commit the BLM to regional weed control efforts through cooperation with other resource agencies, private groups, and nonprofit entities that are committed to weed control. These actions would be moderately sufficient to contain the spread or introduction of weeds. In addition to the direction common to all alternatives, approaches to controlling noxious weeds that involve herbicide applications could also reduce plant productivity of nontarget native and desirable nonnative species. Alternative C establishes vehicle wash requirements which would further diminish the potential for weed transport.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife and Special Status Species Management

Weed control would be a central component of measures to restore, protect, and enhance aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats, and would require implementing coordinated weed control measures. Both INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) guidelines require measures to ensure habitat quality and riparian function, which would necessarily include measures to control invasive species. The BLM would prepare and implement a comprehensive weed management strategy for the 12,869 acres of riparian buffers in the CdA FO.

All alternatives call for closing roads to protect fish and wildlife habitat, which would reduce this primary vector for spread of noxious weeds. Alternatives C and D call for reductions in road densities, which would have even greater effect.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Wildland fire can create a greater potential for weed invasion than the suppression measures. Wildland fire, suppression activities, and fuels treatment actions have the potential to spread weed seeds or create conditions that favor weeds by creating soil disturbances. Therefore, minimizing the amount of burned areas by controlling fire starts within one operational period (as called for under Alternatives A, B, and D) would minimize the amount of area potentially susceptible to weed infestation. However, fully suppressing all wildland fire starts in one operational period may require an aggressive management response, resulting in greater soil disturbance than other less aggressive responses, which in turn would increase the potential for the spread of any weeds that are already in the area or are able to establish post-fire. Stabilizing and repairing burned areas would include revegetation with native species or approved noninvasive species, reducing chances of weed infestation. Under Alternatives B, C, and D, the BLM would consider effects of wildland fire on invasive weed species in developing specific wildland fire use plans to provide resource benefits on approximately 52,319 acres.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact the spread of noxious weeds through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving disturbance to vegetation and soil, in these areas. These constraints would reduce the potential for the spread of noxious weeds, quantitatively corresponding to the total area

classified as VRM II. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations).

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

The probable sale quantities and potential impacts from harvesting forest products are directly related to, and the same as those described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock can contribute to the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Weed seeds can attach to animals or be ingested. They can then be transported to other areas, where weed seeds are spread by the animal physically removing the seed or fruit or through the deposition of fecal matter. Areas where animals concentrate and disturb the soil are particularly vulnerable to infestations of noxious and invasive weeds. The Idaho Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines, which would be followed under all alternatives, contain standards that allow for control of invasive weeds. These standards stipulate that a measure of proper range health is that invasive weed species are not increasing and that grazing measures must be designed to assist in containing weed species. The impact of livestock grazing would be proportional to the area allocated for this use. Alternatives A and B allocate 4,004 acres, while Alternatives C and D allocate only 1,218 acres for livestock grazing.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Quarries and mines associated with locatable and saleable minerals typically disturb vegetation and soils during operation of the project. Some areas already have weed infestations, and these areas could also be a source of weed seed that could spread to other adjacent areas via roads. Disturbances result in increased weed potential, including import of weed seeds and soil disturbance. Reclamation is necessary for reestablishing plants on these disturbed areas. Currently there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining (under Alternatives A, and B). Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more opportunity for the spread of noxious weeds than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Recreation can create disturbances as well as introduce and spread noxious and invasive weeds seeds from vehicles, shoes, clothing, and recreational equipment. Off-road vehicles are a prime source of both soil disturbance and transport of weed seed into previously areas not previously infested. Generally, impacts are less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus the potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce invasive species and noxious weed impacts more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts from biomass harvesting are the same as those described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. For wind energy development, associated road construction and use of heavy machinery to install and maintain wind turbines and power lines would cause vegetation and soil disturbance, which would result in opportunities for the spread of noxious weeds. BMPs would be implemented under all alternatives which would reduce the potential for these impacts. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) contain management direction for renewable energy development that current management does not. This direction would help to reduce the potential for spread of noxious weeds.

4.2.7 Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

OHV use would result in impacts on vegetation, such as loss of vegetation cover and density and composition changes. OHV users would introduce and spread noxious and invasive weed seeds from their vehicles, shoes, clothing, and recreational equipment. As OHV use increases, people from outside the area would bring in noxious and invasive weeds, including new invasive species. OHV activities in undisturbed and remote areas have the potential to distribute weed seeds into weed-free areas. In areas open to off-road motorized vehicle use, impacts can be widespread. In areas where motorized use is limited to designated roads, impacts would be concentrated, affording more effective management of weed infestations. No impacts would occur in areas closed to motorized vehicles. No notable impacts would occur from snowmobile use.

Alternative A: Currently there are 63,041 acres that have no travel designation. By default, these areas are open to cross-country motorized travel. As described above, off-road use in these areas could increase potential for spread of noxious weeds. Impacts would occur in the vicinity of the 27 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel within limited areas. Only 162 acres are currently closed to motorized travel, where no impacts would occur.

Alternative B: There is no area open to cross-country motorized travel, thus impacts on soils associated with open designation would not occur. Impacts would occur in the vicinity of the 282 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel within the limited areas. While this is an increase in designated roads and trails over current management, most of the additional road designations fall within areas that are currently open to off-road travel. This alternative retains the closed area designations from Alternative A.

Alternative C: Similar to Alternative B, there is no open area and impacts associated with open designation would not occur. Impacts would occur in the vicinity of the 175 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel within limited areas. Approximately 311 acres are closed to motorized travel under this alternative.

Alternative D: This alternative also has no open area and impacts would occur in the vicinity of the 175 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel within limited areas. Approximately 631 acres are closed to motorized travel.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Certain activities, such as constructing utility lines or transmission facilities may lead to a high level of soil and vegetative disturbance, increasing the potential for weed spread. Impacts may occur from import of weed seeds on construction vehicles and creation of soil disturbances that favor weeds. Holders of use authorizations would be required to follow standard guidelines for natural resources objectives, and are subject to a weeds fee that provides funds for BLM weed control actions. Rights-of-way for commercial log hauling across BLM lands has a significant impact on weed spread on roads. They are also subject to the BLM weeds fees and account for the majority of the weeds fees collected in the CdA FO.

Alternative A: Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related spread of noxious weeds could occur anywhere in the planning area.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. ROWs and use permits would be concentrated in the remaining 51,548 acres, which would allow for more effective treatment of resulting weed infestations.

Alternative C: This alternative would involve 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the effectiveness of weed treatments.

Alternative D: This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Limitations on activities (vegetation treatments, motorized vehicle use, etc.) which would be allowed within ACECs/RNAs, and WSR eligible/suitable corridors, would reduce the potential for the spread of noxious weeds.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where most activities that could result in invasive species or noxious weed impacts are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect noxious weeds. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation would reduce potential for spread of noxious weeds. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer). Of the remaining protected corridors, all but about 300 acres fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which is already protected. Thus, protection of eligible segments would have little effect on noxious weeds.

Alternative B: The impacts from designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs are the same as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention.

Alternative C: This alternative would designate 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded there. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, with the minor effect on noxious weeds described under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight reduction in the potential for the spread of noxious weeds. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments identified.

4.2.7.3 Cumulative Effects

Weeds have become one of the largest management problems on public and private lands throughout the western United States. Weed problems in the CdA FO exemplify the problems that weeds pose on a mass scale throughout the region. Weeds can occur virtually anywhere, but are most commonly found in places that have been disturbed by vegetation treatments, timber harvest, mining, grazing, roads, OHV use, or fire suppression and treatment actions.

4.2.7 Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

In recognition of the widespread problems caused by weeds, BLM prepared The Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western State EIS in 1991 and the Coeur d'Alene District Programmatic Noxious Weed Control Decision in 1994. Forest management plans prepared by the USFS address issues related to weeds, including their spread and establishment.

Weeds are established throughout the cumulative assessment area, and are likely to increase. Increases in OHV use will continue, although restrictions may be placed on such activities in some areas. Effects from this will be increased soil and vegetation disturbance, as well as increased introduction of new species from one place to another as OHV users travel longer distances to access favorite OHV use areas.

Disturbances brought on by mining, timber extraction, and grazing are similar to each other, although may occur over different scales. This will allow for introduction of weeds into new areas, requiring an increased management response on the part of BLM and other land management agencies. At present management levels, weeds will continue to increase.

Forest treatments in WUI areas throughout the cumulative assessment area may increase as people build homes and communities farther into areas that are currently undeveloped. To the extent that these treatments target weed populations, these populations may be controlled. However, forest treatments that involve use of wildland or prescribed fire or mechanical treatments would require an increased prevention effort and management response for weed control in the aftermath of such treatments. Education of users of federal lands is essential to reducing the introduction and spread of weeds. Cooperative weed management association (CWMA) efforts would also be essential to achieving success in weed control.

Under all alternatives, management measures are proposed to identify and minimize weed potential resulting from authorized actions and events and activities. These actions are similar across the spectrum of alternatives, and commit BLM to continue working with partners from local, state, and federal agencies to control weeds on a broad scale. Measures such as requiring vehicle washes will diminish effects of weed outbreaks in areas outside of the CdA FO by minimizing the potential for seed introduction. However, BLM weed management efforts may be affected if management of adjacent lands is not successful in containing weeds.

4.2.8 Fish and Wildlife

4.2.8.1 Fish

4.2.8.1.1 *Methods of Analysis*

Objectives and management actions could result in impacts on fisheries resources if they directly or indirectly change the quantity, quality, or availability of aquatic habitat, or cause a change to fish populations.

4.2.8.1.2 *Impacts*

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives, BMPs and INFISH RHCA/CNFISH RCA buffers would minimize soil erosion and protect riparian habitats. This would indirectly protect aquatic habitats and fish by increasing proper functioning condition of riparian habitats, including retention of large woody debris characteristic of natural conditions, retention of thermal water quality, and maintenance of surface, channel and bank characteristics.

Impacts from Water Resources

Under all alternatives, aquatic habitat and fisheries would be enhanced and protected by management measures designed to improve or maintain water quality. These include watershed maintenance and restoration. The potential for improvement under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) could be slightly more than under Alternative A, because they contain more specific direction and identified actions to restore and enhance watersheds.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

The potential for degradation of fish habitat from forest vegetation treatments would be greatly reduced by implementation of INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D). Because CNFISH more clearly defines implementation measures than INFISH, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) would increase protection and restoration activities within RCAs over Alternative A. The actions associated with forest vegetation treatments could impact special status fish populations and aquatic habitats as follows:

- *Increased sedimentation on fish-bearing streams.* The relative contribution of sediment associated with forestry practices appears to be moderate from clear-cutting (i.e., higher than from selective cutting or patch-cutting), moderately high from skid trails, and moderate from site preparation. By far, sediment generation is greatest from logging roads, particularly if built near streams (Waters 1995). Increased sedimentation in streams can affect fish populations in a variety of ways, including direct mortality, reduction in suitable spawning gravels, suffocation and mortality of eggs, and displacement of individual fish. Increased sedimentation resulting from forest vegetation treatments could occur even if the treatments take place outside the buffer zones.
- *Altered stream flow regimes.* Water yield increase resulting from vegetation removal could result in scouring of stream channel bottoms, decreasing fish habitat and food sources (BLM North Idaho Timber EIS 1981). The potential for this to occur is relatively low, considering the riparian buffer zones, but localized scouring could occur.
- *Changes in water temperatures.* Increases in water temperature can occur in areas where streamside vegetation is removed, increasing the amount of sunlight reaching the water. The buffer zones identified in INFISH/CNFISH would likely prevent vegetation treatments from occurring in these areas. If treatments were to occur in riparian areas, increased water temperatures could reduce suitable habitat for

cold water fish species. As water temperature increases, the amount of available dissolved oxygen for fish and aquatic invertebrates decreases.

The magnitude of impacts would correspond with the number of acres treated. Alternative A would treat 7,000 acres. Vegetation treatments under Alternative B would increase 37 percent over Alternative A; Alternative C would reduce treatments by 83 percent, and Alternative D would increase treatments by 17 percent.

In addition, Alternatives C and D would specifically conserve and restore aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands. This would maintain or improve the functional condition of riparian areas, and thus aquatic habitat, because these tree species are often associated with riparian zones.

Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands Management

All alternatives set objectives for achieving PFC within riparian and wetland areas. Striving to achieve PFC would maintain and/or improve riparian habitat and its associated function, including vegetative density, bank stability goals, and thermal regulation, for fish populations. Alternatives A, C, and D set a PFC objective of 75 percent, while the objective under Alternative B is 50 percent. Thus Alternative B would be least effective at protecting aquatic habitat. Alternatives B, C, and D contain actions, not included under Alternative A, for active maintenance and improvement measures to help reach PFC, which would improve the potential for success. All alternatives also have an objective for inventory and assessment of riparian and wetland areas. Inventory data could be used to identify and prioritize degraded aquatic habitat for restoration.

Impacts from Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, herbicide treatments of noxious weeds have the potential to adversely affect water quality. Use of the product according to the label and monitoring of applications would minimize the potential for these impacts. Depending upon the species, large noxious weed infestations tend to provide inferior riparian habitat compared to populations of native riparian species. Species such as spotted knapweed have been shown to increase soil erosion by suppressing surrounding vegetation, which could lead to degraded water quality and aquatic habitat. Noxious weed control measures would reduce the potential for this impact to occur. The level of weed control is similar for all four alternatives, and slightly higher under Alternative C because it includes a specific requirement for vehicle wash stations.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

All alternatives contain protective measures for fish and aquatic habitat with a focus on native fish species. Under Alternative A, the INFISH guidance would be followed, whereas under Alternatives B, C, and D a new strategy based on INFISH, called CNFISH, has been tailored to the BLM's land and management capabilities. The goals and objectives of INFISH and CNFISH are the same; the implementation actions to achieve these goals are similar, with only slight differences.

Alternative A: Under Alternative A, the INFISH guidance would be followed. INFISH has criteria for identifying Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) and provides specific measures for management. INFISH also provides guidance for identifying priority watersheds, but no specific watersheds are identified. Restoration and conservation of riparian areas would increase or maintain the quality of associated aquatic habitats and help increase or maintain fish populations. Also under this alternative, fish passages would be improved at all road crossings unless installation of a barrier would be beneficial to native fish.

Deer habitat protection measures under Alternative A may include vegetation treatments. Although measures to protect riparian areas should also protect aquatic habitats, there are potential impacts on aquatic habitats

and fisheries associated with vegetation treatments. These impacts are described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands section.

Alternatives B, C, and D: Under these alternatives, CNFISH would be implemented. CNFISH has criteria for identifying RCAs and provides specific measures for management. Additionally, four conservation and eight restoration watersheds with priority levels ranging from moderate to high are identified under this alternative. Implementing CNFISH and identifying priority watersheds under Alternatives B, C, and D could result in slightly more riparian habitat protection than under Alternative A since it is possible that slightly fewer restoration and conservation actions would be implemented using Alternative A's INFISH guidance. Restoring and conserving riparian areas would increase or maintain the quality of associated aquatic habitats and would help increase or maintain fish populations.

New, replaced, and reconstructed road crossings would be provided for fish passage unless installation of a migration barrier would be beneficial to native fish. Fewer road crossings would be improved for fish passage compared with Alternative A, where fish passage would be provided at all road crossings.

Fish and wildlife management measures to restore and enhance aquatic habitat for sport fish would be implemented under Alternatives B and D, but not C. These measures would increase the quality and quantity of sport fish habitat. In addition, fishing pressure in these areas could increase; resulting in elevated riparian impacts from foot traffic and river access, compared to Alternatives A. Growing nonnative sport fish populations could be detrimental to native fish due to competition or predation.

Deer habitat protection measures under Alternatives B and D emphasize the use of vegetation treatments. Although measures to protect riparian areas should also protect aquatic habitats, there are potential impacts on aquatic habitats and fisheries associated with vegetation treatments. These impacts are described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands section. Deer habitat protection measures under Alternative C do not emphasize vegetation treatments, and related impacts would not occur.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

The impacts from implementing INFISH and CNFISH guidance are discussed above under Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management. Added emphasis on protection of bull trout and white sturgeon habitat, contained under Alternatives B, C, and D, would help protect aquatic habitat for all fish species that occur in these water bodies. Alternative C adds an action recommending withdrawal of lands within 300 feet of special status fish species streambeds from locatable minerals, which would increase protection of this aquatic habitat from the impacts of mineral development (see Impacts from Minerals Management below).

Also, some protection of aquatic habitats would be afforded as a result of bald eagle protection measures found in the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D). Buffers surrounding nest sites and protection of snag habitats could reduce potential impacts on riparian areas from general human uses.

Management measures under the action alternatives for the recovery of the yellow-billed cuckoo, a riparian-dependent species, would also help riparian habitats. Healthy riparian habitats provide water quality, shade, and invertebrate food sources for fish populations.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Fire suppression may involve the use of retardant and heavy equipment. When retardant enters water bodies, it can degrade aquatic habitat. Heavy equipment can disturb soil which can lead to increased sediment in streams. INFISH and CNFISH contain standards and guidelines for fire and fuels management, which would

reduce the potential for these impacts. Also, under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) riparian habitat is a specific criterion for consideration when establishing fire management priorities. Under Alternative C, actions to identify areas where fuels treatments will improve or protect noncommodity natural resources (such as aquatic habitat) are specific to this alternative and would offer the greatest potential for improved habitat conditions of any of the alternatives.

The Action Alternatives also identify 52,319 acres where wildland fire use would be considered. The short-term effect of fire use would be removal of riparian vegetation and degradation of aquatic habitat. However, the return of fire to its natural role in the ecosystem would lead to long-term enhancement of riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact riparian and wetland vegetation and aquatic habitat through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. While 12-15 percent (varying slightly by alternative) of this VRM II area is within RHCAs/RCAs where riparian vegetation is already protected, the constraints placed on the remaining VRM II areas would reduce the potential for actions to degrade aquatic habitat, corresponding in effect to the total area classified.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Potential impacts from forestry and woodland products are the same as those described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands section for vegetation treatments.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock can impact riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat around watering locations by trampling and grazing plants and by soil compaction, which reduces riparian species cover and diversity, and degrades functioning condition. Under Alternative A, approximately 4,004 acres of land would be available for livestock grazing. Only 37 of these acres are within riparian zones. Alternatives C and D allocate only 1,218 acres for livestock grazing, with only 11 acres in riparian zones. Thus impacts on aquatic habitat from livestock grazing would be negligible under any alternative. Any impacts that might occur would be reduced by implementation of Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and grazing guidelines from INFISH/CNFISH.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Implementing INFISH and CNFISH would protect fish habitat from degradation resulting from mining. The actions associated with mining could impact special status fish populations and aquatic habitats as follows::

- Increased sedimentation on fish-bearing streams. Excess sediment generation can be the direct result of surface disturbances for mineral extraction, drilling, and facilities construction and also for road construction, maintenance, and use. Increased sedimentation in streams can affect fish populations in a variety of ways, including direct mortality, reduction in suitable spawning gravels, suffocation and mortality of eggs, and displacement of individual fish. Increased sedimentation resulting from mining could occur even if the mining activities are outside the buffer zones.

- Introducing hazardous materials to fish-bearing rivers, streams, and lakes. Hazardous materials from the mining activities themselves and from equipment use and maintenance could be released into fish-bearing waterbodies. Associated with locatable minerals extraction are mine tailings, which can introduce heavy metals. Similarly, the extraction of fluid materials can result in oil or other fluid releases, which could degrade water quality. An example of this is the releases associated with well-flow testing for geothermal power development. Spills can also occur from equipment that uses hazardous fluids such as gasoline and oil. The impact on fish populations depends upon the type of hazardous material released and the quantity of the release. If severe enough, mortalities can occur and habitat can become unsuitable for aquatic life.
- Altered stream flow regimes. Water yield increase resulting from vegetation removal and alteration of natural drainage could result in scouring of stream channel bottoms and decreasing fish habitat and food sources. The potential for this to occur is relatively low, considering the INFISH/CNFISH riparian buffer zones, but localized scouring could occur.
- Changes in water temperatures. Increases in water temperature can occur in areas where streamside vegetation is removed, increasing the amount of sunlight reaching the water. The buffer zones identified in INFISH/CNFISH would likely prevent mining from occurring in these areas. If mining were to occur in riparian areas, increased water temperatures could reduce suitable habitat for cold water fish species. As water temperature increases, the amount of available dissolved oxygen for fish and aquatic invertebrates is decreased.

Currently (under Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more impacts on aquatic habitat than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Generally, removal of vegetation and other damage to riparian habitat from recreational use would be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus the potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres of riparian habitat within SRMAs. Under Alternative A, SRMAs cover 871 acres of riparian habitat. Riparian habitat within SRMAs under Alternative B would total 6,851 acres, with 5,424 acres under Alternative C, and 7,519 under Alternative D.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts on fisheries and aquatic habitat from extraction of biomass fuels would be the same as those identified from vegetation treatments under Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands. Road construction and use, or power line installation associated with wind energy development, could result in soil erosion or removal of riparian vegetation, which would degrade functioning conditions in affected riparian zones. Implementation of INFISH/CNFISH restrictions and BMPs under all alternatives would minimize these effects.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Use of roads and trails (except for snowmobile use) can result in increased sedimentation to fish-bearing streams, rivers, and lakes. Increased sedimentation in streams can affect fish populations in a variety of ways, including direct mortality, reduction in suitable spawning gravels, suffocation and mortality of eggs, and displacement of individual fish.

Table 4.2.8-1 summarizes the transportation and travel management designations for the CdA FO for each alternative. Alternative A is the only alternative that would continue to have open travel areas. The greatest potential for increased sedimentation occurs in areas open to off-road motorized travel where new roads and trails are being created and overland riding can cause erosion. Limited travel areas would be less likely to cause increased sedimentation than open travel areas. Closed travel areas would protect fish-bearing streams from the effects of road and trail use. Consequently, Alternative A is likely to have the greatest amount of sedimentation impacts of the four alternatives. Impacts affect aquatic habitat more when they occur within riparian vegetation. See the section on Impacts from Travel Management on Riparian Vegetation for more specific information.

Table 4.2.8-1 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	33,567 ac	96,608 ac	96,549 ac	96,139ac
Road open to all vehicles	13.2 mi	169 mi	53 mi	107 mi
Road with seasonal/class restriction	0 mi	62 mi	65 mi	18 mi
Trail with class restriction	14 mi	51 mi	4 mi	50 mi

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

ROW authorizations and use permits are generally for activities such as road construction or facilities development. Construction, road use, and heavy equipment can cause soil erosion or remove riparian vegetation resulting in degradation to aquatic habitat. Under current management there are no restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related impacts on aquatic habitat could occur anywhere in the planning area, within the limits of INFISH restrictions. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) each identify ROW exclusion areas where no ROW authorizations or land use permits would be allowed, and ROW avoidance areas where authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. All RCAs are identified as avoidance areas under the actions alternatives. In addition, between 3,623 and 3,732 acres of RHCA/RCA fall within ROW exclusion areas. Also, when actions are authorized within RHCAs or RCA, CNFISH restrictions would apply. Thus, potential impacts from lands and realty authorization on aquatic habitat would be greatly reduced as a result of the actions within this section of the action alternatives.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations, such as ACECs, could help to protect riparian and wetland vegetation, thus protecting aquatic habitat. Localized protective management of stream segments found eligible or suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation could provide similar protection.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Aquatic habitat would be protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on aquatic habitat are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect impacts on aquatic habitat. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would include protection of riparian vegetation. However, eligible segments include 14

miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership, and very little ability to influence aquatic habitat. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would actually be little added protection.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect riparian and wetland vegetation as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of riparian vegetation.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect aquatic habitat through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded in these areas. The portions of the Little North Fork Clearwater Headwaters ACEC that are outside of the Grandmother Mountain WSA would be managed to protect habitat for fish, as would all of Wolf Lodge Bay ACEC and the Kootenai River Front ACEC. Gamlin Lake and Killarney Lake ACECs would also emphasize protection of riparian and wetland habitat, and therefore protect aquatic habitat. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of the riparian vegetation that they contain. Little North Fork Clearwater Headwaters, Wolf Lodge Bay, Gamlin Lake, and Killarney Lake are not identified as ACECs under this alternative. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

4.2.8.1.3 Cumulative Impacts

Fish populations are not restricted by land ownership. Many resident populations migrate up and downstream depending on their lifecycle using aquatic habitats independent of land ownership. Aquatic habitat management outside BLM administered lands is often critical for the health of fish populations within BLM managed lands. Additionally, water quality on BLM land is often inherited from sources upstream or upslope outside of BLM managed lands. Land management activities both outside and within BLM-managed lands are important for fish populations including special status fish. Cumulative impacts on fish and special status fish would be those impacts where activities outside of BLM combined with actions on BLM-managed lands would combine to affect fisheries. Many of the cumulative actions and events discussed regarding water quality under Section 4.2.3, *Water Resources* would also have cumulative impacts on fish habitat and populations.

Alternative A: Fisheries and aquatic habitat conservation measures implemented on lands adjacent to or along the same fish bearing waterways as BLM could increase the quality of aquatic habitats and protect fish populations. These measures include the requirements of the ESA, strategies of ICBEMP and INFISH.

Potential degradation of water quality, riparian habitats, and aquatic habitats could occur from timber, mining, road construction, OHV use and grazing activities outside BLM administered lands. These potential impacts combined with the potential impacts from these activities on BLM administered lands could result in increased impacts on fish populations. Although, there are several conservation measures to be implemented along with these resource uses, impacts similar to those described in the environmental consequences section

could occur. The largest degradations to aquatic habitats are most likely to occur from activities on private lands which are not subject to the same environmental reviews as federal and state managed lands.

Alternative B: Cumulative impacts under Alternative B would be similar to those presented under Alternative A except the CNFISH conservation measures would be implemented in lieu of INFISH. Potential degradation of aquatic habitats would increase under Alternative B which would increase timber harvest compared with the other alternatives.

Alternative C: Cumulative impacts under Alternative C would be similar to those presented under Alternative B. Potential degradation of aquatic habitats from other resource uses would be reduced compared with Alternative B because less timber would be harvested. Potential impacts from these activities are described in the general discussion of environmental impacts in this section.

Alternative D: Cumulative impacts under Alternative D would be similar to those presented under Alternative B. Timber harvest activities would be reduced compared to Alternative B but would be greater than Alternatives A and C.

4.2.8.2 Terrestrial Wildlife

4.2.8.2.1 Methods of Analysis

This section presents potential impacts on terrestrial wildlife including migratory birds from other management actions. Objectives and management actions could result in impacts on these species if they directly or indirectly change the quantity, quality, or availability of habitat, or cause a change to species populations. The following is a list of habitat characteristics used in this analysis to identify potential for change to these indicators:

- Seral stage of forest vegetation
- Quantity of trees with cavity nesting potential
- Size of trees
- Complexity of canopy structure
- Quantity of large woody debris
- Quantity of noxious weeds
- Measures of habitat fragmentation
- Tree cover along wildlife travel corridors such as streams and ridge tops
- Proper functioning condition of riparian and wetland habitats
- Water quality
- Population size
- Species density
- Species diversity

4.2.8.2.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives, BMPs and riparian buffers would indirectly improve riparian-dependent wildlife habitat by increasing proper functioning condition of riparian habitats.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, actions designed to maintain and improve water quality and physical stream characteristics via assessment, BMPs, coordination, and implementation of INFISH/CNFISH could indirectly improve habitat for riparian-dependent and fish-eating wildlife by improving instream structure and vegetation to desired conditions along streams. The potential for improvement could be slightly less under current management than under the other alternatives because of fewer specific actions to restore and enhance watersheds.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

All types of treatments would involve short-term impacts such as habitat fragmentation from roads and skid trails and would temporarily prevent habitat use by some wildlife due to human activities while the treatment(s) are in progress. The magnitude of all treatment-related impacts would correspond to the number of acres treated. Alternative A treats 7,000 acres. When compared to Alternative A, Alternative B treats 37 percent more acres; Alternative C treats 83 percent fewer acres; and Alternative D treats 17 percent more acres.

Alternative A: Vegetation treatments to return specific areas to historic species composition would alter wildlife habitats immediately after treatments and possibly for decades depending on how much structure was retained as part of the stand treatment. Habitat for some species would be improved, especially those that select more early seral or open seral forest habitats, and habitat for other species would be degraded, especially for those that prefer denser and structurally diverse habitats and closed seral habitats. Vegetation treatments that reduce structure while returning the stand to its historic species composition could impact species that require stands with complex structure for decades. Effects from vegetation treatments would be highly dependent on: (1) species; (2) habitat conditions before and after treatments; (3) type of treatment; (4) details of how each treatment is carried out; (5) adjacent habitat types; and (6) long-term management of each area after treatment.

Alternative C: The effects are the same as Alternative A, except that most vegetation treatments would be applied to areas as a result of disturbances, which most likely will come from wildfires or insect infestations that have substantially removed forest vegetation and that require treatments to encourage restoration of native tree species matching the cover type of the affected area. Other vegetation treatments would concentrate on restoring historic species composition and would not necessarily consider structure similar to Alternative A. Alternative C also specifically calls for conservation and restoration of aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands, which is not part of Alternatives A and B. This would enhance habitat for species who favor these tree components.

Alternative B and D: The need to return an area to its historic species composition would be tempered by also bringing each cover type closer to its historic structure mix (early, mid, and late seral). While treatments would favor retention of species that would tend to bring an area closer to historic species composition, it may also require retaining a species composition that does not meet the historic composition for a longer time in order to meet structure needs of an area. Treatments designed for structure changes toward a later seral

stage or toward a more complex structure would create more of these habitats. Alternative D also specifically calls for conservation and restoration of aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands, which is not part of Alternatives A and B. This would enhance habitat for species who favor these tree components.

Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands Management

Actions to maintain and improve functioning conditions of riparian and wetland areas would also improve or maintain riparian wildlife habitat. Alternatives A, C, and D have an objective to achieve PFC for 75 percent of the riparian and wetland areas. Alternative B has a PFC objective of only 50 percent. Unlike current management, the action objectives (Alternatives B, C, and D) specify actions for maintaining and improving riparian and wetland areas. Thus the specified objective would be more likely met under the action alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation – Nonforested Management

Current management calls for meeting the Idaho Rangeland Health Standards, which would protect nonforested vegetation habitat. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) have more specific actions to provide more protection. Alternatives C and D place more emphasis on nonforested vegetation by requiring active prevention of off-road motorized vehicle use and restoration of native plant communities.

Impacts from Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, actions to prevent and control invasive and noxious weeds using integrated weed management techniques could reduce the area and severity of damage to wildlife habitats by reducing the quantity of invasive species and thus decreasing the competition, allowing native species vital to wildlife to increase (or at least slow down the rate of decrease).

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Both INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) would protect and improve riparian vegetation and habitat as described under the Vegetation-Riparian and Wetlands Management, and the Fish segment of this Fish and Wildlife section. This would improve the quality of habitat for riparian-dependent wildlife and could potentially lead to an increase in density and diversity of these species. Actions proposed under Alternatives B and D to restore and enhance aquatic habitat for sport fish could further improve habitat for riparian-dependent wildlife.

Under all alternatives, seasonally closing roads in crucial and important winter range for deer and elk would reduce potential impacts on these big game herds by reducing sources of disturbance during periods when these animals need to conserve energy to survive. This effect could apply to several species of nongame wildlife that are sensitive to winter disturbances. These and other actions to protect and improve deer and elk habitat would likely maintain or slightly improve habitats for these big game species and thus at least generally maintain their approximate mean population parameters. Under Alternatives B and D, emphasis on actively treating vegetation to improve deer and elk winter range would likely result in habitat changes sooner than under the other alternatives. Effectiveness on deer and elk populations would vary by type of treatment. These treatments could increase the mean sizes of the deer and elk populations on public lands and nearby private lands. A multitude of other factors that affect the size of these populations, such as weather trends, disease, and predation, would still result in fluctuations below and above current population levels. Effects on other wildlife from these vegetation treatments would vary dramatically by guild and habitat preferences as well as by the type of treatment. Actions under Alternative B would provide for more treatments and more effects on populations, than under Alternative D.

Closing and partially obliterating roads would reduce numerous direct, indirect, cumulative, and additive impacts on many species of forest wildlife that are disturbed by vehicular traffic and habitats that are fragmented by roads. The criteria for closing roads under Alternative A make these actions less effective for wildlife management purposes than under the other alternatives.

Snag management actions would leave more snags for cavity-dependent wildlife, including migratory birds. Related actions under Alternative A would result in more snags than Alternative B, but fewer than under Alternatives C or D. Under Alternatives D and C, actions to retain large trees for snag recruitment, retaining and promoting late-seral forests through vegetation treatments, and emphasizing uneven-aged silvicultural management techniques would result in a greater area of appropriate habitats for late-seral dependent wildlife species and less area for species dependent on younger forests.

Buffer restrictions around raptor nests would protect raptors and their habitats. A larger buffer would generally be more effective. Alternatives A and C would implement a 100-yard buffer. Alternative B would only implement a 50-yard buffer, and Alternative D would implement a 100-yard buffer outside, and 50 yards within, urban and rural areas.

Under Alternatives A, B, and D, planning for small clearcuts and planting forage such as grasses or white Dutch clover would improve grouse habitat, possibly resulting in larger populations and greater hunting opportunities. This clover is not native to Idaho forest habitats and would decrease the habitat quality for most native species while providing increased forage for a few herbivores. Small clearcuts could improve habitat conditions and increase populations of species that select open habitats and edges and have the opposite effect on species requiring forest interior. Alternative C calls for no such treatments, and Alternative D calls for planting native grasses and forbs.

Enhancing habitat for furbearers under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) via implementing CNFISH and maintaining and enhancing old growth forest stands would at least maintain habitat and populations for furbearers, as well as for other old growth dependent wildlife species. These alternatives also call for implementing habitat management plans (HMPs) specific to waterfowl, which could enhance habitat and attract waterfowl to these areas, possibly enhancing waterfowl production locally and increasing hunting opportunities. These HMPs could increase or decrease the quantity and quality of habitat for other wetland wildlife such as migratory birds depending on the site-specific prescription of each HMP.

Alternative C prohibits vegetation treatments that could result in the take of migratory birds and would eliminate many vegetation treatment options between May 15 and July 15; this would reduce the take of migratory birds as well as reduce mortality and disturbance of other forest species such as deer fawning and elk calving. Alternative D calls for avoiding and minimizing (not prohibiting) vegetation treatments that could result in a take, to the extent practicable. This would reduce the take of migratory birds and reduce mortality and disturbance of other forest species such as deer fawning and elk calving where implemented.

Alternatives C and D call for providing access for bats when closing abandoned mines that currently or could provide bat habitat. This would maintain or increase the potential for bats to use these mines and thus could maintain or increase bat populations.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, compliance with the ESA and BLM policy would indirectly conserve wildlife species that use habitats similar to federally listed plants and animals. Implementing recovery activities for wolverine could maintain or increase the area of suitable habitat for wildlife species that use broad-elevation old forest

habitats, such as varied thrush. Actions designed to ensure that rare plant populations are stable or continue to improve could indirectly have similar effects on wildlife that use the habitat types occupied by special status plants.

Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) many actions designed for special status fish species, such as implementing CNFISH, would also increase and improve the habitat of riparian-dependent wildlife species, such as American dipper and yellow warbler. Implementing recovery activities for bald eagle could maintain or increase the area of suitable habitat for wildlife species that also use riparian habitats, such as common merganser.

Action Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D): Implementing recovery activities for Canada lynx could maintain or increase the area of suitable habitat for other wildlife species such as snowshoe hare that also use a mosaic of forest habitats. Implementing recovery activities for woodland caribou could maintain or increase the area of suitable habitat for wildlife species that also use broad-elevation old forest source habitats, such as pileated woodpecker.

Implementing actions to protect and recover gray wolf could result in slight improvements in deer and ungulate habitat conditions. Potential increases in wolf populations could alter the composition of deer and elk herds by culling weak, diseased, and old individuals, which could result in slightly smaller but healthier ungulate populations.

Implementing recovery activities for fisher and wolverine could maintain or increase the area of suitable habitat for wildlife species that use broad-elevation old forest habitats, such as varied thrush.

Actions designed to ensure that rare plant populations are stable or continue to improve could indirectly have similar effects on wildlife that use the habitat types occupied by special status plant species.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Similar to forested vegetation actions, wildland fire management actions would affect each wildlife species differently based on their habitat needs. Wildlife species native to northern Idaho evolved over a long period of time in the presence of natural fires in many habitat types. In general and over the long term, natural fire regimes could restore habitats to historic conditions. Because existing conditions differ from historic conditions due to fire suppression, timber harvest, and other activities, the effect of forest fire on wildlife may not be consistent with what the species evolved. Quantity and quality of wildlife habitat that is similar to historic conditions may be achieved as a result of some fires. Fuel treatments would have effects similar to forested vegetation treatments.

Actions under Alternatives A and B place more emphasis on protecting commercially valuable resources than on resources such as wildlife. Thus, potential improvements of wildlife habitat from wildland fire would be less and potential degradations of specific habitat features could be greater than under Alternatives C or D. Under Alternative C wildland fire management actions would have more emphasis on noncommodity resources. Therefore, the potential for improvement of wildlife habitats would be greater and the potential for degradations of specific wildlife habitat features would be less. Alternative D balances protection of commodity and noncommodity resources.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact habitat through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II,

would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities that could impact habitat are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. This would indirectly provide protection for existing habitat, but prevent enhancement treatments, such as clearcuts for grouse, or those designed to improve deer and elk habitat. As described in the forested vegetation section, impacts vary widely by guild, species, habitat, and vegetation treatment details.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

The potential impacts from harvesting forest products are the same as those described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Because grazing allotments in the CdA FO are in forested rather than more typical rangeland vegetation, effects on wildlife would be largely on species that use young seral stage forest. Limited competition could occur between livestock and ungulates, and livestock could disturb or deter migratory birds from nesting. These effects would be primarily on common species, and would be temporary. Such impacts would be minimal due to the small portion of lands allocated to grazing – 4,004 acres under Alternatives A and B, and 1,218 acres under Alternatives C and D.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Minerals development could impact wildlife through habitat fragmentation from roads and mining facilities, and from vegetation removal. Alternatives A and B would allow the most opportunities for mineral developments since only 5,376 acres could continue to be withdrawn. Alternative C proposes an additional 24,270 acres to be withdrawn, while Alternative D identifies only 27 more acres than current management for withdrawal.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Recreational use can degrade wildlife habitats by damaging or removing vegetation. Human presence can also deter some wildlife from using habitat. Generally, impacts will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on wildlife more than any other alternative.

Impacts Renewable Energy Management

Impacts from biomass removal are described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. Migratory bird species and bat mortality associated with wind turbines, and habitat fragmentation from road construction and power lines could occur if wind energy is developed. While current management has no objective to provide opportunities for wind energy, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) do and would provide better opportunity to control where development and impacts might occur.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Roads and trails can fragment habitats and alter home range and migration corridors of wildlife. On a general scale, roads decrease habitat quality and impair populations. Magnitude of effects varies by species, habitat types, size and traffic volume of roads, and seasonal use. Species that require forest interior habitats, have large home ranges, follow distinct migration patterns, or are wary of humans are impacted the most by roads. Roads, trails, and snowmobile access increase human–wildlife interactions and not only degrade wildlife habitats due to surface disturbance, but can also cause displacement and physiological stress to animals, which is especially detrimental in winter. Off-road vehicle travel has the most potential for these impacts to occur. When motorized travel is limited, location or restrictions on use of roads can help avoid or minimize impacts on habitat.

Alternative A is the only alternative that would continue open travel areas (Table 4.2.8-2) and thus would impact wildlife the most. Of the action alternatives, which have no open areas, Alternative B has the greatest amount of designated roads, followed by Alternative D. Alternative C has the least. More designated roads would result in more dispersed motorized travel and access, which would likely result in more impacts on habitat. Although the amount of area closed to motorized vehicles varies by alternative, this variation is not enough that there would be a distinct difference in impacts on habitat. The variation in area open to off-road snowmobile use does not vary enough among Alternatives A, B and D to make a difference in impacts. However, there would be no off-road snowmobile use under Alternative C. This alternative also has the fewest miles of road open to all vehicles, and the most seasonal/class restriction miles. Thus impacts on wildlife would be least under Alternative C.

Table 4.2.8-2 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	33,567 ac	96,608 ac	96,459 ac	96,139 ac
Open to Cross Country Snowmobile	66,949 ac	64,157 ac	0 ac	63,373 ac
Road open to all vehicles	13.2 mi	169 mi	53 mi	107 mi
Road with seasonal/class restriction	0 mi	62 mi	65 mi	18 mi
Trail with class restriction	14 mi	51 mi	4 mi	50 mi

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Impacts on wildlife can occur from land tenure adjustments, ROW use, and use authorizations. Under land tenure, there is potential to lose or gain productive habitat. Lands are sometimes exchanged out of federal ownership to private timber companies. The timber companies will then harvest the commercial timber thus causing major changes to habitats. The status of habitats on lands that BLM acquires varies greatly. Under some programs, BLM may obtain productive wetland, riparian, or special status species habitat, and protect it from commercial development. Other times, BLM may acquire lands where drastic changes to habitat have recently occurred. Habitat fragmentation could potentially be reduced via land acquisition and adjustment that reduces the dispersed pattern of public land ownership in the planning area, and increases the size of publicly owned blocks of land. Consolidation is a criterion for retention and acquisition under all alternatives. ROW and use authorizations generally involve road or facilities construction or improvements. These have the potential to fragment habitat, displace animals, or cause them physiological stress.

Alternative A: Wildlife habitat is not a criterion for land retention/acquisition under current management. Therefore, adjustment and exchange offers could result in moving important wildlife habitats out of public

ownership. Current management also does not place any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or use permits. Thus related impacts on wildlife could occur anywhere in the planning area.

Alternative B: This alternative specifies wildlife habitat (hunnable, fishable, trappable, and viewable) as a criterion for land retention/acquisition. This could result in an increase, or prevent loss in the acreage of important wildlife habitats in public ownership, thereby increasing opportunities for habitat protection. This alternative also identifies 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. There would be no potential for related impacts on wildlife to occur in exclusion areas, and the potential would be greatly reduced in avoidance areas. However, these designations would also concentrate authorizations within the remaining 51,548 acres, where there would be an increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative C: This alternative identifies special status plant and wildlife habitat, as well as riparian and wetland habitat as criteria for retention/acquisition. This would increase the likelihood of increasing or retaining important habitat in public ownership, more than Alternative B. This alternative also specifies 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The effect on wildlife within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the differences in area. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative D: This alternative identifies federally listed special status species habitat as a criterion for acquisition or retention. While this would ensure retention and promote acquisition of special status species habitat, it would allow for other habitat to be exchanged or otherwise adjusted. This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The effect on wildlife within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the slight differences in area. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Management of areas with special designations can protect habitat indirectly through limitation on activities, or directly when an area, such as and ACEC, is designated to protect a wildlife value.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. The management specified for Hideaway Islands would maintain habitat for wildlife species that use black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood habitat as well as other cottonwood species. Management of the current Lund Creek RNA would continue to maintain wildlife habitat for riparian-, wetland-, and mature forest-dependent wildlife. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on wildlife habitat are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect impacts on wildlife, unless release by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would include protection of riparian habitat. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership, and very little ability to influence water quality. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would be no added protection unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect wildlife as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of habitat.

Alternative C: This alternative would designate 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional wildlife protection would truly be afforded within this area, unless these WSAs were released by Congress. However, designations on the portions of Rochat Divide and Little North Fork of the Clearwater ACECs that are outside the WSAs, as well as designations at Farnham Forest, Gamlin Lake, Morton Slough, and Windy Bay would directly or indirectly apply protective measures to wildlife and wildlife habitats through use restrictions. Managing the Kootenai River Front to protect habitat for fish species and bald eagles would indirectly protect habitat for these and other riparian-dependent wildlife species as well. Managing Wolf Lodge Bay and the Kootenai River Front ACEC to protect habitat for fish species, bald eagle, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and migratory birds would indirectly protect habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife that use habitats in the bay. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments are found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of habitat. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice Management

Health and Safety. Generally, actions to remediate contaminated sites to safeguard human health, as would occur under all alternatives, would also affect wildlife habitats and populations, especially those that are dependent on riparian and wetland habitats. Reducing contaminants in the environment reduces the potential for animals to ingest them. It also reduces biomagnification, as contaminants are concentrated as they pass up through the food chain. Removing contaminants from the environment would generally affect piscivorous (fish-eating) species such as osprey and belted kingfisher the most. Remediation and stabilization actions along creeks would promote the growth of riparian vegetation and thus would gradually improve habitat for riparian-dependent wildlife species.

4.2.8.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Most of the items listed in Table 4.1.3-1, Actions and Events That Contribute to the Cumulative Impacts Scenario, have had or will have impacts on wildlife. Population increases, timber activities, fire, road construction, and mineral development, have had the biggest effects. These actions and their interactions have resulted in the loss of and changes in habitat across northern Idaho resulting in degraded quality of these habitats and the populations they support. In northern Idaho, changes in vegetation directly and indirectly resulting from the above actions, are the most critical on federal lands and include:

- Early successional tree species replaced by late successional tree species;
- Larger, older trees replaced by smaller, younger trees (decreased cavity-nesting niche);
- Multistory canopies replaced by single-story canopies (decreased complexity);
- Native species replaced by noxious weed species; and

- Large stands of forest replaced by small stands of forest (increased fragmentation).

On private lands large amounts of wildlife habitat is lost and will continue to be lost as a result of increasing development from population growth in the planning area (41 percent between 1990 and 2000). This loss coupled with the related increased fragmentation from development will shrink the quantity and quality of available habitats in the planning area perhaps increasing the importance of public lands including the BLM and USFS. Implementing the RMP, as well as USFS Forest Plan Revisions would put numerous new mitigation, restoration, and conservation measures in place that would likely reduce the potential extent and severity of impacts from other actions on private lands. Implementing several programs, such as CNFISH, could combine with similar programs on USFS lands to rehabilitate damaged lands such as riparian areas. Actions on BLM lands would have a noticeable effect at the local level; however, given the small total area of scattered federal parcels managed by BLM, the contribution of the CdA FO action to the cumulative effects on wildlife across northern Idaho would be relatively small. Actions by the USFS have a greater potential for contributing to the cumulative effects on wildlife of much of northern Idaho because the agency manages 25 times the number of acres managed by the CdA FO.

Forested vegetation treatments/harvest including prescribed fire in conjunction with similar actions on national forests would, if successful, bring forested lands into a condition more similar to the historic range of variability for species composition and structure. However, short-term effects from logging on wildlife would be present from roads, noise, and presence of humans. Long-term effects would occur for species requiring the denser, more complex structure of mature forests that would be treated. These species could decline until forests mature. Species that select more open, single-canopy forest structures would experience an increase in available habitat from forested vegetation treatments.

The same types of cumulative effects would occur under all alternatives. Generally, Alternative C would contribute the greatest potential for improvement in wildlife habitat in northern Idaho because of numerous management actions, mitigation measures, and restrictions designed to improve wildlife habitats. The least amount of change due to forest vegetation treatments would occur. Alternatives A and D would likely contribute less to any improvements in wildlife habitat conditions across northern Idaho due to more of a focus on commodities, especially under Alternative B. More acres of forest vegetation would be treated than under Alternative C, resulting in more effects on wildlife. Alternative D is generally intermediate between Alternatives B and C in most regards.

4.2.9 Special Status Species

4.2.9.1 Special Status Species – Fish

4.2.9.1.1 Methods of Analysis

Objectives and management actions could result in impacts on special status fisheries resources if they directly or indirectly change the quantity, quality, or availability of aquatic habitat or cause a change to populations of special status fish species.

4.2.9.1.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives, BMPs and INFISH RHCA/CNFISH RCA buffers would minimize soil erosion and protect riparian habitats. This would indirectly protect special status fish species and habitats by increasing proper functioning condition of riparian habitats, including retention of large woody debris characteristic of natural conditions, retention of thermal water quality, and maintenance of surface, channel and bank characteristics.

Impacts from Water Resources

Under all alternatives, special status fish species and habitat would be enhanced and protected by management measures designed to improve or maintain water quality. These include watershed maintenance and restoration. The potential for improvement under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) could be slightly more than under Alternative A, because there is more specific direction and identified actions to restore and enhance watersheds.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

The potential for degradation of fish habitat from forest vegetation treatments would be greatly reduced by implementation of INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D). Because CNFISH more clearly defines implementation measures than INFISH, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) would increase protection and restoration activities within RCAs over Alternative A. The actions associated with forest vegetation treatments could impact special status fish populations and aquatic habitats as follows:

- *Increased sedimentation on fish-bearing streams.* The relative contribution of sediment by various forestry practices appears to be moderate from clear-cutting (i.e., higher than from selective cutting or patch-cutting), moderately high from skid trails, and moderate from site preparation. By far, sediment generation is greatest from logging roads, particularly if built near streams (Waters 1995). Increased sedimentation in streams can affect fish populations in a variety of ways, including direct mortality, reduction in suitable spawning gravels, suffocation and mortality of eggs, and displacement of individual fish. Increased sedimentation resulting from forest vegetation treatments could occur even if the treatments take place outside the buffer zones.
- *Altered stream flow regimes.* Water yield increase resulting from vegetation removal could cause scouring of stream channel bottoms, decreasing fish habitat and food sources (BLM North Idaho Timber EIS 1981). The potential for this to occur is relatively low, considering the riparian buffer zones, but localized scouring could occur.
- *Changes in water temperatures.* Increases in water temperature could occur in areas where streamside vegetation is removed, increasing the amount of sunlight reaching the water. The buffer zones

identified in INFISH/CNFISH would likely prevent vegetation treatments from occurring in these areas. If treatments were to occur in riparian areas, increased water temperatures could reduce suitable habitat for cold water fish species. As water temperature increases, the amount of available dissolved oxygen for fish and aquatic invertebrates decreases.

The magnitude of impacts would correspond with the number of acres treated. Alternative A would treat 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would reduce treatments 83 percent reduction, while D would increase treatments 17 percent.

In addition, Alternatives C and D would specifically conserve and restore aspen, birch, and cottonwood stands. This would maintain or improve the functional condition of riparian areas, and thus special status fish habitat, because these tree species are often associated with riparian zones.

Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands Management

All alternatives set objectives for achieving PFC within riparian and wetland areas. Striving to achieve PFC would maintain and/or improve riparian habitat and its associated function, including vegetative density, bank stability goals, and thermal regulation, for special status fish populations. Alternatives A, C, and D set a PFC objective of 75 percent, while the objective under Alternative B is 50 percent. Thus Alternative B would be least effective at protecting special status fish habitat. Alternatives B, C, and D contain actions, not included under Alternative A, for active maintenance and improvement measures to help reach PFC, which would improve the potential for success. All alternatives also have an objective for inventory and assessment of riparian and wetland areas. Inventory data could be used to identify and prioritize degraded special status fish habitat for restoration.

Impacts from Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, herbicide treatments of noxious weeds have the potential to adversely affect water and special status fish habitat. However, careful management and monitoring of applications would minimize this potential. Depending upon the species, large noxious weed infestations tend to provide inferior riparian habitat, which can degrade special status fish habitat. Noxious weed control measures would reduce the potential for this impact on occur. The level of weed control is similar for all four alternatives, and would be slightly higher under Alternative C because it includes a specific requirement for vehicle wash stations.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

The impacts from implementing INFISH and CNFISH guidance are discussed below under Impacts from Special Status Species Management.

Fish and wildlife management measures to restore and enhance aquatic habitat for sport fish would be implemented under Alternatives B and D, but not C. These measures would increase the quality and quantity of sport fish habitat. In addition, fishing pressure in these areas could increase; resulting in elevated riparian impacts from foot traffic and river access, compared to Alternatives A. Growing nonnative sport fish populations could be detrimental to native special status fish due to competition or predation.

Deer habitat protection measures under Alternative A may include vegetation treatments. Alternatives B and D emphasize use of vegetation treatments for this purpose. Although measures to protect riparian areas should also protect special status fish habitats, there are potential impacts on this habitat from vegetation treatments. These impacts are described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands section. Deer habitat protection measures under Alternative C do not emphasize vegetation treatments, and related impacts would not occur.

4.2.9 Special Status Species

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

All alternatives contain protective measures for fish and aquatic habitat with a focus on native fish species. Under Alternative A, the INFISH guidance would be followed, whereas under Alternatives B, C, and D a new strategy based on INFISH, called CNFISH, has been tailored to the BLM's land and management capabilities. The goals and objectives of INFISH and CNFISH are the same; the implementation actions to achieve these goals are similar, with only slight differences.

Alternative A: Under Alternative A, the INFISH guidance would be followed. INFISH has criteria for identifying Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) and provides specific measures for management. INFISH also provides guidance for identifying priority watersheds, but no specific watersheds are identified. Restoration and conservation of riparian areas would increase or maintain the quality of associated aquatic habitats and help increase or maintain fish populations. Also under this alternative, fish passages would be improved at all road crossings unless installation of a barrier would be beneficial to native fish.

Alternatives B, C, and D: Under these alternatives, CNFISH would be implemented. CNFISH has criteria for identifying RCAs and provides specific measures for management. Additionally, four conservation and eight restoration watersheds with priority levels ranging from moderate to high are identified under this alternative. Implementing CNFISH and identifying priority watersheds under Alternative B could result in slightly more riparian habitat protection than under Alternative A since it is possible that slightly fewer restoration and conservation actions would be implemented using Alternative A's INFISH guidance. Restoring and conserving riparian areas would increase or maintain the quality of associated aquatic habitats and would help increase or maintain fish populations. Also, under CNFISH, when constructing new, replacement and reconstructed culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings, fish passage would be provided unless installation of a migration barrier would be beneficial to native fish.

Alternatives B, C, and D have added emphasis on protection of bull trout and white sturgeon habitat. Alternative C adds an action recommending withdrawal of lands within 300 feet of special status fish species streambeds, which would increase protection of this aquatic habitat from the impacts of mineral development (see Impacts from Minerals Management below).

Also, some protection of special status fish habitats would be afforded as a result of bald eagle protection measures found in the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D). Buffers surrounding nest sites and protection of snag habitats could reduce potential impacts on riparian areas from general human uses.

Management measures, under the action alternatives, for the recovery of the yellow-billed cuckoo, a riparian-dependent species, would also protect riparian habitats. Healthy riparian habitats provide water quality, shade, and invertebrate food sources for special status fish populations.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Fire suppression may involve the use of retardant and heavy equipment. When retardant enters water bodies, it can degrade special status species habitat. Heavy equipment can disturb soil which can lead to increased sediment in streams. INFISH and CNFISH contain standards and guidelines for fire and fuels management, which would reduce the potential for these impacts. Also, under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) riparian habitat is a specific criterion for consideration when establishing fire management priorities. Under Alternative C, actions to identify areas where fuels treatments will improve or protect noncommodity natural resources (such as aquatic habitat) are specific to this alternative and offer the greatest potential for improved habitat conditions of any of the alternatives.

The action alternatives also identify 52,319 acres where wildland fire use would be considered. The short-term effect of fire use would be removal of riparian vegetation and potential degradation of special status fish habitat. However, the return of fire to its natural role in the ecosystem would lead to long-term enhancement of riparian vegetation and habitat.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact riparian and wetland vegetation and special status fish habitat through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. While 12-15 percent (varying slightly by alternative) of this VRM II area is within RHCAs/RCA's where riparian vegetation is already protected, the constraints placed on the remaining VRM II areas would reduce the potential for actions to degrade special status fish habitat, corresponding in effect to the total area classified.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Potential impacts from forestry and woodland products are the same as those described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands section for vegetation treatments.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock can impact riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat around watering locations by trampling and grazing plants and by soil compaction, which reduces riparian species cover and diversity, and degrades functioning condition. Under Alternative A, approximately 4,004 acres of land would be available for livestock grazing. Only 37 of these acres are within riparian zones. Alternatives C and D allocate only 1,218 acres for livestock grazing, with only 11 acres in riparian zones. Thus impacts on special status fish habitat from livestock grazing would be negligible under any alternative. Any impacts that might occur would continue to be reduced by Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management and grazing guidelines from INFISH/CNFISH.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Implementing INFISH and CNAFISH would protect special status fish habitat from degradation resulting from mining. The actions associated with mining could impact special status fish populations and aquatic habitats as follows::

- Increased sedimentation on fish-bearing streams. Excess sediment generation can be the direct result of surface disturbances for mineral extraction, drilling, and facilities construction and also for road construction, maintenance, and use. Increased sedimentation in streams can affect fish populations in a variety of ways, including direct mortality, reduction in suitable spawning gravels, suffocation and mortality of eggs, and displacement of individual fish. Increased sedimentation resulting from mining could occur even if the mining activities are outside the buffer zones.
- Introducing hazardous materials to fish-bearing rivers, streams, and lakes. Hazardous materials from the mining activities themselves and from equipment use and maintenance could be released into fish-bearing waterbodies. Associated with locatable minerals extraction are mine tailings, which can introduce

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heavy metals into water. Similarly, the extraction of fluid materials can result in oil or other fluid releases, which could degrade water quality. An example of this is the releases associated with well flow testing for geothermal power development. Spills can also occur from equipment that use hazardous fluids such as gasoline and oil. The impact on fish populations depends upon the type of hazardous material released and the quantity of the release. If severe enough, mortalities can occur and habitat can become unsuitable for aquatic life.

- Altered stream flow regimes. Water yield increases resulting from vegetation removal and alteration of natural drainage could result in scouring of stream channel bottoms and decreasing fish habitat and food sources. The potential for this to occur is relatively low, considering the INFISH/CNFISH riparian buffer zones, but localized scouring could occur.
- Changes in water temperatures. Increases in water temperature could occur in areas where streamside vegetation is removed, increasing the amount of sunlight reaching the water. The buffer zones identified in INFISH would likely prevent mining from occurring in these areas. If mining were to occur in riparian areas, increased water temperatures could reduce suitable habitat for cold water fish species. As water temperature increases, the amount of available dissolved oxygen for fish and aquatic invertebrates is decreased.

Currently (under Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more impacts on special status fish than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Recreational use can degrade special status species habitats by damaging or removing vegetation. Human presence can also deter some fish species from using habitat. Generally, impacts will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on special status fish more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts on special status fish from extraction of biomass fuels would be the same as those identified from vegetation treatments under Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands. Road construction and use, or power line installation associated with wind energy development, could result in soil erosion or removal of riparian vegetation, which would degrade functioning conditions in affected riparian zones. Implementation of INFISH/CNFISH restrictions and BMPs under all alternatives would minimize these effects.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Use of roads and trails (except for snowmobile use) can result in increased sedimentation to special status fish-bearing streams, rivers, and lakes. Increased sedimentation in streams can affect fish populations in a variety of ways, including direct mortality, reduction in suitable spawning gravels, suffocation and mortality of eggs, and displacement of individual fish.

Table 4.2.9-1 summarizes the transportation and travel management designations for the CdA FO for each alternative. Alternative A is the only alternative that would continue to have open travel areas. The greatest potential for increased sedimentation occurs in areas open to off-road motorized travel where new roads and trails are being created and overland riding can cause erosion. Limited travel areas would be less likely to cause increased sedimentation than open travel areas. Closed travel areas would protect special status fish-bearing streams from the effects of road and trail use. Consequently, Alternative A is likely to have the greatest amount of sedimentation impacts of the four alternatives. Impacts affect special status fish species more when they occur within riparian vegetation. See the section on Impacts from Travel Management on Riparian Vegetation for more specific information.

Table 4.2.9-1 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	33,567 ac	96,608 ac	96,549 ac	96,139ac
Road open to all vehicles	13.2 mi	169 mi	53 mi	107 mi
Road with seasonal/class restriction	0 mi	62 mi	65 mi	18 mi
Trail with class restriction	14 mi	51 mi	4 mi	50 mi

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

ROW authorizations and use permits are generally for activities such as road construction or facilities development. Construction, road use, and heavy equipment can cause soil erosion or remove riparian vegetation, resulting in degradation to special status fish habitat. Under current management there are no restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related impacts on aquatic habit could occur anywhere in the planning area, within the limits of INFISH restrictions. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) each identify ROW exclusion areas where no ROW authorizations or land use permits would be allowed, and ROW avoidance areas authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. All RCAs are identified as avoidance areas under the actions alternatives. In addition, between 3,623 and 3,732 acres of RCAs fall within ROW exclusion areas. Also, when actions are authorized within RCAs, CNFISH restrictions would apply. As a result, potential impacts from lands and realty authorization on aquatic habitat would be greatly reduced.

There is also potential for indirect impacts on special status fish habitat from land tenure designations. If lands with special status fish habitat are exchanged or otherwise subject to adjustment, conservation measures outlined in this plan would no longer be enforced. However, if the BLM acquires lands with special status fish habitat, then protective measures would apply. Alternative A does not identify special status fish habitat as a criterion for retention or acquisition. Alternative B identified wildlife habitat (hunnable, fishable, trappable, and viewable) as a criteria. This could indirectly result in retention or acquisition of special status fish habitat. Alternative C identifies special status wildlife (which would include fish) habitat as a retention/acquisition criteria. Alternative D lists habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species among criteria for retention/acquisition.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations, such as ACECs, could help to protect riparian and wetland vegetation, thus protecting special status fish habitat. Localized protective management of stream segments found eligible or suitable for

4.2.9 Special Status Species

Wild and Scenic River designation, all of which provide habitat for special status fish, could provide similar protection.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Special status fish habitat would be protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA would be redesignated specifically to protect special status fish (bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout). However, the entire area falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on aquatic habitat are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect impacts on special status fish, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would include protection of riparian vegetation. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership, and very little ability to influence habitat. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would actually be little added protection.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect special status fish as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of riparian vegetation.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect aquatic habitat through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded in these areas. The portions of the Little North Fork Clearwater Headwaters ACEC that are outside of the Grandmother Mountain WSA, would be managed to protect habitat for special status fish (bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout), as would all of Wolf Lodge Bay and Killarney Lake ACECs. Gamlin Lake would also emphasize protection of riparian and wetland habitat, and therefore protect potential habitat. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of the riparian vegetation that they contain. Little North Fork Clearwater Headwaters, Wolf Lodge Bay, Gamlin Lake, and Killarney Lake are not identified as ACECs under this alternative. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice Management

Health and Safety. Hazardous and contaminated site cleanups potentially improve fish habitat where contamination has occurred near fish-bearing streams. Activities such as site restrictions and rock dump stabilizations limit the potential for hazardous materials to reach fish-bearing waterbodies. Cleanup efforts may result in water quality improvements, stream stabilizations, and restoration of watershed areas. Potential impacts on special status fish species are the same for all alternatives.

4.2.9.1.3 Cumulative Impacts

Most of the items listed in Table 4.1.3-1 have had or will have impacts on special status wildlife. Cumulative effects described under Section 4.2.8.1, *Cumulative Effects on Fish* would also apply to those fish species listed

under the ESA or designated by BLM as sensitive. Many cumulative actions and events discussed regarding water quality under Section 4.2.3, *Water Resources* would also have cumulative impacts on special status fish habitat and populations.

4.2.9.2 Special Status Species – Terrestrial Wildlife

4.2.9.2.1 Methods of Analysis

This section presents potential impacts on special status terrestrial wildlife species, including special status migratory birds. Objectives and management actions could result in impacts on these species if they directly or indirectly change the quantity, quality, or availability of habitat, cause a change to species populations, result in take, or cause status change (listing/delisting). The following is a list of habitat characteristics used in this analysis to identify potential for change to the indicators of habitat and population:

- Seral Stage of Forest Vegetation
- Quantity of trees with cavity nesting potential
- Size of trees
- Complexity of canopy structure
- Quantity of large woody debris
- Quantity of noxious weeds
- Measures of habitat fragmentation
- Tree cover along wildlife travel corridors such as streams and ridge tops
- Proper functioning condition of riparian and wetland habitats
- Water Quality
- Population size
- Species density
- Species diversity.

4.2.9.2.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives, BMPs and other actions to prevent erosion generally improve vegetation communities, especially in riparian areas and thus indirectly improve associated special status wildlife habitats. Direction from INFISH and CNFISH would protect special status species that occupy riparian areas, such as bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, willow flycatcher, and Idaho giant salamander.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, effective watershed management, which minimizes erosion, could result in healthy and diverse plant communities, which in turn provide special status wildlife habitat especially in riparian areas. Healthy watersheds improve fish habitat, which in turn provides foraging opportunities for piscivorous (fish-eating) special status wildlife.

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Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Impacts on special status terrestrial wildlife from forests and woodlands management would be similar to those impacts described for terrestrial wildlife in Section 4.2.8.2.2, Impacts from Vegetation - Forest and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetland Management

Any actions that would improve riparian and wetland functioning condition would in turn improve habitats for riparian- and wetland-dependent special status wildlife species such as the bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, Calliope hummingbird, and Cordilleran flycatcher.

Alternatives A, C, and D have an objective to achieve PFC for 75 percent of the riparian and wetland areas. Alternative B has a PFC objective of only 50 percent. Unlike current management, the action objectives (Alternatives B, C, and D) specify actions for maintaining and improving riparian and wetland areas. Thus the specified objective would be more likely met under the action alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation – Nonforested Management

Current management calls for meeting the Idaho Rangeland Health Standards, which would protect nonforested vegetation habitat. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) have more specific actions to provide more protection. Alternatives C and D place more emphasis on nonforested vegetation by requiring active prevention of off-road motorized vehicle use and restoration of native plant communities.

Impacts from Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, actions to prevent and control invasive and noxious weeds using integrated weed management techniques could reduce the area and severity of damage to special status wildlife habitats by reducing the quantity of invasive species and thus decrease the competition, allowing native species, vital to special status wildlife, to increase (or at least slow down the rate of decrease).

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Impacts from implementing INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) are addressed below under Impacts from Special Status Species Management.

Actions proposed to restore and enhance aquatic habitat for sport fish, under Alternative B, could improve habitat for riparian-dependent special status wildlife by planting for streamside shade. Effects on other special status wildlife from vegetation treatments for deer and elk would vary dramatically by guild and habitat preferences as well as by type of treatment.

Under all alternatives, seasonally closing roads in crucial and important winter range for deer and elk would reduce potential impacts on sensitive species that use the same habitat. Under Alternatives B and D, emphasis on actively treating vegetation to improve deer and elk winter range would likely result in special status species habitat changes. Actions under Alternative B would provide for more treatments and more effects on populations, than under Alternative D. See Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management for information regarding impacts from such treatments. Treatments could result in increases in big game populations, which could potentially lead to increases in populations of special status species that prey on big game.

All alternatives call for closing and partially obliterating roads, which would reduce numerous direct, indirect, cumulative, and additive impacts on many species of forest special status wildlife, such as fisher, wolverine,

Canada lynx, and grizzly bear that could be disturbed by vehicular traffic and habitats that are fragmented by roads.

Cavity-dependent wildlife, such as woodpeckers, depend on the presence of snags (dead standing trees) for cover and reproduction. Population sizes of these species are limited by the availability of snags. Snag management actions would leave snags for cavity-dependent special status wildlife, such as Lewis' woodpecker, flammulated owl, and fisher. Related actions under Alternative A would result in more snags than Alternative B, but fewer than under Alternatives C or D. Under Alternatives D and C, actions to retain large trees for snag recruitment, retaining and promoting late-seral forests through vegetation treatments, and emphasizing uneven-aged silvicultural management techniques, would result in a greater area of appropriate habitats for late-seral-dependent special status wildlife species.

Buffer restrictions around special status raptor nests, such as northern goshawk, boreal owl, flammulated owl, and great gray owl, would offer limited protection of these species and their breeding habitats. A larger buffer would generally be more effective. Alternatives A and C would implement a 100-yard buffer. Alternative B only implement a 50-yard buffer. Alternative D would implement a 100-yard buffer outside, and 50 yards within urban and rural areas.

Under Alternatives A, B, and D, creating small clearcuts and planting forage, such as white Dutch clover (Alternatives A and B) and native grasses and forbs (Alternative D) for grouse production could decrease potential habitat quality for species requiring forest interior such as fisher.

Enhancing habitat for furbearers under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) via implementing CNFISH and maintaining and enhancing old growth forest stands would at least maintain habitat and populations for special status furbearers, such as fisher and wolverine, as well as for other old growth-dependent special status wildlife species. These alternatives also call for implementing HMPs specific to waterfowl, which could enhance habitat and attract waterfowl to these areas, possibly enhancing waterfowl production locally and increasing hunting opportunities. These HMPs could increase or decrease the quantity and quality of habitat for other wetland wildlife such as migratory birds, depending on the site-specific prescription of each HMP.

Implementing HMPs specific to waterfowl under Alternatives B and D, which could include foraging and breeding habitat improvements via vegetation and hydrology manipulation, could enhance or possibly degrade habitat for wetland special status wildlife such as black tern, trumpeter swan, and long-billed curlew, depending on species and the site-specific prescription of each HMP.

Alternative C, prohibiting vegetation treatments that could result in the take of migratory birds, would eliminate many vegetation treatment options between May 15 and July 15; this would reduce the take of migratory birds (to include special status species) as well as reduce mortality and disturbance of other special status forest species. Alternative D calls for avoiding and minimizing (not prohibiting) vegetation treatments that could result in take, to the extent practicable. This would reduce the take of migratory birds and reduce mortality and disturbance of other forest special status species, but not as well as Alternative C.

Alternatives C and D would provide access for bats when closing abandoned mines. This would maintain or increase the potential for special status bats, such as fringed myotis and Townsend's big-eared bat, to use these mines and thus could maintain or increase bat populations.

4.2.9 Special Status Species

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, actions to comply with the ESA and Memorandum 80-722 and conserve threatened and endangered species would likely eliminate take and would contribute to recovery of listed species. Actions to reduce impacts on sensitive species could improve, or at least slow down losses of, habitat conditions and population parameters for these species. Actions designed to ensure that rare plant populations are stable or continue to improve could indirectly have similar effects on special status wildlife that use the habitat types occupied by special status plants and conversely could decrease habitat quality for species that don't use these habitats.

Implementation of INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternative B) guidelines would improve the quality of habitat for riparian-dependent special status wildlife, such as bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, Coeur d'Alene salamander, willow flycatcher, Idaho giant salamander, Calliope hummingbird, and Barrow's goldeneye; and potentially could lead to an increase in density and diversity of these species.

Alternative A: A lack of specific actions regarding most special status species could lead to less potential for progress toward recovery of these species than under the other alternatives. Implementing recovery activities for wolverines would at least maintain and possibly increase the area of suitable wolverine habitat. These actions could help avoid a future need to list the species under the ESA by increasing breeding success and survival.

Alternatives B, C, and D: Implementing recovery activities for woodland caribou would at least maintain and would likely increase the area of suitable caribou habitat, and it even could contribute to the recovery of the species. Special status wildlife species that also use broad-elevation old forest source habitats could be affected by these actions as well, such as fisher and northern flying squirrel.

Implementing recovery activities for bald eagle would at least maintain and possibly increase the area of suitable bald eagle habitat, including nest and roost sites and foraging locations and could contribute to the recovery of the species by increasing breeding success and survival. Other special status wildlife species that use riparian habitats could be affected by these actions as well.

Implementing recovery activities for Canada lynx would at least maintain and possibly would increase the area of suitable Canada lynx habitat, including denning and snowshoe hare habitats and linkage areas. These actions could contribute to the recovery of the species by increasing breeding success and survival.

Special status wildlife species that use a mosaic of forest habitats could be affected by these actions as well, such as wolverine and blue grouse. Implementing recovery activities, in compliance with interagency grizzly bear management guidelines, including maintaining the BLM's proportionate share of minimal habitat values, would at least maintain and possibly increase the area of suitable grizzly bear habitat. These actions could contribute to the recovery of the species by increasing breeding success and survival.

Implementing recovery activities for gray wolf would at least maintain and possibly would increase the area of suitable gray wolf habitat, including denning and amount of prey species. In addition, reducing take could contribute to the recovery of the species by increasing breeding success and survival.

Implementing recovery activities for fisher would at least maintain and possibly would increase the area of suitable fisher habitat. These actions could help avoid a future need to list the species under the ESA by increasing breeding success and survival.

Actions for wolverines would have similar effects as under Alternative A.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Actions under Alternatives A and B place more emphasis on protecting commercially valuable resources than on resources such as special status wildlife. Thus, potential improvements of special status species habitat from wildland fire would be less and potential degradations of specific habitat features could be greater than under Alternatives C or D. Under Alternative C wildland fire management actions would have more emphasis on noncommodity resources. Therefore, the potential for improvement of habitats would be greater and the potential for degradation of specific habitat features would be less. Alternative D balances protection of commodity and noncommodity resources.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact special status species habitat through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities that could impact habitat are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. This would indirectly provide protection for special status species habitat.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Impacts are described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management section.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Because grazing allotments in the CdA FO are in forested rather than more typical rangeland vegetation, effects on special status wildlife would be largely on species that use young seral stage forest. Few special status wildlife species in the planning area are young seral stage-dependent. Livestock could disturb or deter special status migratory birds from nesting. Such impacts would be minimal due to the small portion of lands allocated to grazing – 4,004 acres under Alternatives A and B, 1,218 acres under Alternatives C and D. There are no grazing allotments under any alternative within caribou, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx management units, and none within wolf habitat or known bald eagle wintering areas. Therefore, grazing is unlikely to have an effect on listed species.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Minerals management impacts on special status wildlife potentially occur from surface disturbance and thus loss of habitat as well as disturbances from noise and movement. Alternatives A and B would allow the most opportunities for mineral developments since only 5,376 acres would be withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes an additional 24,370 acres to be withdrawn, while Alternative D identifies only 27 more acres than current management for withdrawal.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Recreational use can degrade special status species habitats by damaging or removing vegetation. Human presence can also deter some wildlife from using habitat. Generally, impacts will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under

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Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on special status wildlife more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts from biomass removal are described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. Special status migratory bird species and bat mortality associated with wind turbines, and habitat fragmentation from road construction and power lines could occur if wind energy is developed. While current management has no objective to provide opportunities for wind energy, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) would provide better opportunity to control where development and impacts might occur.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Roads and trails can fragment habitats and alter home range and migration corridors of wildlife. On a general scale, roads decrease special status species habitat quality and impair populations. The magnitude of effects varies by species, habitat types, size and traffic volume of roads, and seasonal use. Species that require forest interior habitats (fisher), have large home ranges (grizzly bear), have distinct migration patterns, or are wary of humans (wolverine) are impacted the most by roads and OHV use. Roads, trails, and snowmobile access increase human–wildlife interactions. Vehicles can degrade special status species habitats from surface disturbance and can cause displacement and physiological stress to animals, which is especially important in winter. Off-road vehicle travel would have the most potential for these impacts to occur. When motorized travel is limited, location or restrictions on use of roads can help avoid or minimize impacts.

Alternative A is the only alternative that would continue open travel areas (Table 4.2.9-2) and thus would likely impact special status wildlife the most. Of the action alternatives, which have no open areas, Alternative B has the most amount of designated roads, followed by Alternative D. Alternative C has the least. More designated roads would result in more dispersed motorized travel and access, which would likely result in more impacts on habitat. Although the amount of area closed to motorized vehicles varies by alternative, this variation is not enough that there would be a distinct difference in impacts on habitat. The variation in area open to off-road snowmobile use does not vary enough among Alternatives A, B and D to make a difference in impacts. However, there would be no off-road snowmobile use under Alternative C. This alternative also has the fewest miles of road open to all vehicles, and the most seasonal/class restriction miles. Thus impacts on special status species would be least under Alternative C.

Table 4.2.9-2 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	32,567 ac	96,607 ac	96,459 ac	96,139 ac
Open to Cross Country Snowmobile	66,949 ac	64,157 ac	0 ac	63,373 ac
Road open to all vehicles	13.2 mi	169 mi	53 mi	107 mi
Road with seasonal/class restriction	0 mi	62 mi	65 mi	18 mi
Trail with class restriction	14 mi	51 mi	4 mi	50 mi

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Impacts on special status species can occur from land tenure, ROW authorizations, and use authorizations. Under land tenure, there is a potential to lose or gain productive habitat. Lands are sometimes exchanged out of federal ownership to private timber companies. The timber companies will then harvest the commercial timber thus causing major changes to habitats. The status of habitat on lands that the BLM acquires varies

greatly. Under some programs, the BLM may obtain productive wetland, riparian, or special status species habitat, and protect it from commercial development. Other times, the BLM may acquire lands where drastic changes to habitat have recently occurred. Habitat fragmentation could also potentially be reduced via land acquisition and adjustment that reduces the dispersed pattern of public lands ownership and increases the size of publicly owned blocks of land. Consolidation is a criterion for retention and acquisition under all alternatives. ROW and use authorizations generally involve road or facilities construction or improvements. These have the potential to fragment habitat, displace animals, or cause them physiological stress.

Alternative A: Special status species habitat is not a criterion for land retention/acquisition under current management. Therefore, adjustment and exchange could result in loss of important habitats from public ownership. Current management also does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or use permits. Thus related impacts on special status species could occur anywhere in the planning area.

Alternative B: This alternative specifies wildlife habitat (hunnable, fishable, trappable, and viewable) as a criterion for land retention/acquisition. This could indirectly result in an increase, or prevent moving important special status species habitats out of public ownership, thereby increasing opportunity for habitat protection. This alternative also identifies 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. There would be no potential for related impacts on wildlife to occur in exclusion areas, and the potential would be greatly reduced in avoidance areas. However, these designations would also concentrate authorizations within the remaining 51,548 acres, where there would be an increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative C: This alternative identifies special status plant and wildlife habitat, and riparian and wetland habitat as criteria for retention/acquisition. This would increase the likelihood of increasing or retaining important habitat in public ownership, more than Alternative B. This alternative also specifies 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The effect on impacts on wildlife within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the differences in area. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative D: This alternative identifies federally listed special status species habitat as a criterion for acquisition or retention. While this would insure retention and promote acquisition of special status species habitat, it would allow for other special status species habitat to be exchanged or otherwise adjusted. This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The effect on impacts on wildlife within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the slight differences in area. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres.

Impacts from Special Designation Management

Generally special management areas such as ACECs, RNAs, WSAs, and wild and scenic rivers result in protection of special status wildlife from human activities and long-term improvement or at least maintenance of habitat quality.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Hideaway Islands would specifically be designated to protect bald eagles. Management of the current Lund Creek RNA

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would continue to maintain wildlife habitat for riparian-, wetland-, and mature forest-dependent wildlife, to include the Coeur d'Alene Salamander. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on water quality are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect impacts on wildlife, unless released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would indirectly conserve special status wildlife habitat, especially for riparian species such as bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, and Barrow's goldeneye. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership, and little ability to influence habitat. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would be no added protection unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect wildlife as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of habitat.

Alternative C: This alternative would directly or indirectly protect special status species through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded within this area, unless these WSAs were released by Congress. Several of these ACECs would be designated to specifically protect special status species. Values protected by designation of the Rochat Divide would include wolverine denning sites. Little North Fork of the Clear Water would be designated to protect the Coeur d'Alene Salamander among other values. Farnham Forest includes grizzly bear habitat among protected values. Morton Slough and Kootenai River would be designated to protect bald eagles. Wolf Lodge Bay ACEC would protect bald eagle, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and migratory birds. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments are found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. Some of the ACECs that would be designated for special status species under Alternative C (Kootenai River Front, Wolf Lodge Bay, and Morton Slough) are not included under Alternative D. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of special status wildlife. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice Management

Health and Safety. Generally, actions under all alternatives to remediate contaminated sites to safeguard human health would also affect special status wildlife habitats and populations, especially those that are dependent on riparian and wetland habitats. Reducing contaminants in the environment reduces the potential for animals to ingest them. It also reduces biomagnification, as contaminants are concentrated as they pass up through the food chain. Removing contaminants from the environment through such actions as mitigating newly discovered hazards within 120 days and pursuing the reduction of hazards at abandoned mine sites, would generally affect piscivorous (fish-eating) species such as bald eagle as well as bats which forage on insects near water the most. Closing abandoned mines has potential to impact special status bat species. If they are closed in a manner to allow access to bats, then these bat populations would be preserved. Closures of mines without bat access could prevent their use in the future. Remediation and stabilization actions along creeks

would promote the growth of riparian vegetation and reduce sediment loads, and thus would gradually improve habitat for riparian-dependent special status wildlife species.

4.2.9.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Most of the items listed in Table 4.1.3-1 have had or will have impacts on special status wildlife. Cumulative effects described under Section 4.2.8.2, Cumulative Effects on Terrestrial Wildlife, also apply to those wildlife species listed under the ESA or designated by BLM as sensitive. Actions and mitigation measures to comply with the ESA and work towards recovery would make a small contribution to recovery of listed species in northern Idaho due to the small quantity of BLM-managed lands. The USFS has by far the greatest control over the health of listed and sensitive species in northern Idaho due to the large amount of land ownership. Development on private lands in northern Idaho would also put additional pressure on special status species. Implementing Alternative C would contribute the greatest amount towards recovery and prevention of listing new species, Alternative A the least, followed by Alternative B. Alternative D would generally be intermediate between Alternatives B and C. No alternative would contribute towards take of a listed species.

4.2.9.3 Special Status Species– Plants

4.2.9.3.1 Methods of Analysis

Impacts on special status plants are indicated by changes to occurrence, population, vigor, or habitat. The objective and actions, as well as the actions that could result from the alternatives were analyzed to determine if they would affect any of these indicators.

4.2.9.3.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives, BMPs and other actions to prevent erosion generally improve vegetation communities, especially in riparian areas, and thus indirectly improve associated special status plant habitats.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, effective watershed management, which minimizes erosion, could result in healthy and diverse plant communities, and potentially can result in suitable habitats for special status plants or improvement in existing conditions especially in riparian areas. Special status plant species dependent on riparian and wetland habitats, such as bristly sedge, Constance's bittercress, and bulb-bearing water hemlock, would be the most affected.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Impacts on special status plants from forests and woodlands management would be similar to those impacts described for terrestrial wildlife in Section 4.2.8.2.2, Impacts from Vegetation - Forest and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetland Management

Under all alternatives, actions that would improve riparian and wetland conditions would in turn improve habitats for riparian- and wetland-dependent special status plant species by decreasing erosion, and increasing streambank stabilization and areas of wetland.

Alternatives A, C, and D have an objective to achieve PFC for 75 percent of the riparian and wetland areas. Alternative B has a PFC objective of only 50 percent. Unlike current management, the action objectives

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(Alternatives B, C, and D) specify actions for maintaining and improving riparian and wetland areas. Thus the specified objective would be more likely met under the action alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation – Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, actions to prevent and control invasive and noxious weeds using integrated weed management techniques could reduce the area and severity of damage to special status plant habitats by reducing the quantity of invasive species and thus decrease the competition allowing native and special status plants to increase (or at least slow down the decrease). However, weed management techniques could also harm nontarget plant species, including special status plants or common native plants which comprise special status plants habitat. Careful management and monitoring of applications would minimize this potential.

Impacts from Vegetation – Nonforested Management

Under all alternatives, actions to protect or enhance nonforested vegetation would protect and enhance special status species that occur within this vegetation type.

Alternative A: Current management only calls for meeting the Idaho Rangeland Standards and Guidelines. This would require maintenance of existing native plant communities. It would also require nonnative plant species used for restoration to be appropriate for the restoration site. These actions would minimize potential for impacts on special status plants that occur in this vegetation type.

Alternative B: This alternative is a little more specific about preventing tree species invasion (preventing changes in acres of occurrence of nonforested vegetation), but otherwise calls for natural recovery, which would offer the least protection of nonforested vegetation and associated special status plants of any alternative.

Alternatives C and D: These alternatives specify the same action regarding tree invasion as Alternative B. However, these alternatives also require active prevention of off-road motorized vehicle use in nonforested areas, leading to less disturbance of soil and vegetation (to include special status plants), and less opportunity for invasion by noxious weeds which may reduce occurrences and populations of special status plants. This alternative also calls for active restoration through seeding, which would enhance the native plant base necessary for special status plants.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Implementation of INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) could expand and improve the quality of habitat for riparian-dependent special status plants and potentially could lead to increased viability of these species.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, actions to comply with the ESA and Memorandum 80-722 and conserve threatened and endangered species would likely eliminate take and could contribute to recovery of listed species. Actions to reduce impacts on sensitive species could improve, or at least slow down losses of, habitat conditions and population parameters for these species. Actions for special status plants, including using inventory and monitoring data as a basis for management decisions, cooperating with other agencies, following mitigation guidelines, and employing conservation strategies, would likely maintain or improve special status plant populations. Actions designed for special status fish species, such as implementing INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternative B), would also increase and improve the habitat of riparian/aquatic special status plant species. Many recovery actions that conserve habitat for listed species could also indirectly protect populations or habitat of other special status plant species that occur in these same habitats.

Additional actions for special status plants found in Alternatives C and D, especially prioritizing weed control, could increase the probability of improving the vigor and distribution of these species over Alternatives A or B. These actions could aid in preventing future ESA listings for sensitive species and recovering listed species. Alternative D further identifies other actions specifically for maintaining and improving threatened and endangered populations and habitat. These actions could contribute to recovery of listed species.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

The level of impact from fires occurring in special status plant habitats would depend on whether that species is fire-dependent, the severity of the fire, type of habitat, composition, structure and fire regime of the area relative to the historical range of variability, and fire suppression tactics. Special status plant populations could be damaged or destroyed in a severe fire, but in general fire would improve habitat for special status plants in the long term in the majority of cases. Fuel treatments would have effects similar to forested vegetation treatments.

While occurrence of special status plants would be a consideration under any wildland fire management activity, Alternative C specifies wildland fire management actions with emphasis on noncommodity resources such as special status plants. This could provide additional attention to protection of special status plants, as well as help make special status plant enhancement more of a priority for fire management. Alternative D balances emphasis between commodity and noncommodity resources, thus not placing as much emphasis on special status plants as Alternative C.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual resources management can indirectly impact special status plants through the limitations it places on authorized activities (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect. VRM I only occurs in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) where most management activities that could impact habitat are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no additional impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Only low levels of change to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. Therefore, there would be constraints on activities, especially those involving removal of vegetation, in these areas. This would indirectly reduce the potential for impacts on special status plants.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Impacts are described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management section.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Impacts could include livestock trampling individual plants or disturbing habitats. Special status plants are considered prior to issuing grazing permits, and few allotments exist on public lands in the planning area, so the potential for impacts on special status plants from grazing is very low under any alternative. Alternatives A and B allocate 4,004 acres for livestock grazing. Alternatives C and D only allocate 1,218 acres. Thus, under the latter two alternatives, the potential for impacts from grazing is even less than current management.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Minerals management impacts on special status plants potentially occur from surface disturbance and thus loss of habitat as well as potential destruction of individual plants. Currently (Alternatives A, and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow

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more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more impacts on special status plants than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Alternative A: Much of the potential impacts from recreation are indirect effects from transportation and travel management and can include accidental destruction of individual special status plants or disturbance of habitat from vehicles. This type of effect is addressed further in the transportation and travel management section. Constructing recreational facilities generally increases use and thus increases the potential for accidental disturbance of special status plants. Travel management restrictions, special designations, and the ESA generally minimize but do not eliminate the potential for these impacts.

Alternative B: More infrastructure and maintenance actions could result in slightly more potential for accidental special status plants impacts than under Alternative C. Potential impacts are described under Alternative A.

Alternative C: Fewer infrastructure and maintenance actions could result in slightly less potential for accidental special status plant impacts than under Alternative B. Potential impacts are described under Alternative A.

Alternative D: Under Alternative D, impacts from recreation actions would be similar to Alternative B. Potential impacts are described under Alternative A.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts from biomass removal are described above under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. There is a small potential that direct damage to special status plants, and destruction of habitat from construction of roads and power lines could occur, if wind energy is developed. Introduction of weeds by vehicles used to remove biomass products or to construct wind energy facilities could impact special status plants. While current management has no objective to provide opportunities for wind energy, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) would provide better opportunity to control and mitigate where development and impacts might occur.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Impacts from travel management on special status plants are generally due to accidental destruction of individual plants or occurrences, and from the introduction of weeds by vehicles, pedestrians, and equestrian use. Off-road motorized vehicle use (except snowmobiles) has the highest potential for these impacts. Under current management, 63,041 acres are open to off-road travel. None of the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) designate any area as open to off-road travel. Therefore the potential for impacts is greatly reduced.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Impacts on special status species can occur from both land tenure adjustment and ROW and use authorizations. Land tenure impacts on special status plants could occur through loss of habitat and populations from federal ownership and protection. ROW and use authorizations generally involve road or facilities construction or improvements, which can harm special status plants and their habitat. Impacts through acquisition could also benefit special status plants. For example, BLM recently acquired land that contains Constance's bittercress.

Alternative A: Special status species habitat is not a criterion for land retention/acquisition under current management. Therefore, adjustment and exchange could result in loss of important special status plant

populations and habitat from public ownership and protection. Current management also does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or use permits. Thus related impacts on special status plants could occur anywhere in the planning area.

Alternative B: Land tenure criteria under this alternative would have the same effect as Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. There would be no potential for related impacts on special status plants to occur in exclusion areas, and the potential would be greatly reduced in avoidance areas. However, these designations would also concentrate authorizations within the remaining 51,548 acres, where there would be an increase in the potential and intensity of impacts.

Alternative C: This alternative identifies special status plant and wildlife habitat and riparian and wetland habitat as criteria for retention/acquisition. This would increase the likelihood of increasing or retaining important habitat in public ownership, more than Alternatives A or B. This alternative also specifies 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The effect on impacts on wildlife within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the differences in area. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the potential and intensity of impacts.

Alternative D: This alternative identifies federally listed special status species habitat as a criterion for acquisition or retention. While this would ensure retention and promote acquisition of special status plant habitat, it would allow for other special status plant species and habitat to be exchanged or otherwise adjusted. This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The effect on impacts on wildlife within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the slight differences in area. Authorizations and impacts would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres.

Impacts from Special Designation Management

Generally special management areas such as ACECs, RNAs, WSAs, and wild and scenic rivers result in protection of special status plants from human activities and long-term improvement or at least maintenance of habitat quality.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. This would provide protection of special status plant populations that occur there. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts on special status plants are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect special status plants unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would include protection of special status plants and other vegetation that occurs within the adjacent lands. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership, and very little ability to influence management. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would be no added protection unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect special status plants as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic

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River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of special status plants.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect existing special status plants through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded, unless the WSAs were released by Congress. The area outside the WSA includes the Gamlin Lake ACEC, which identifies special status plants as one of the values that designation is intended to protect. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of special status plants. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

4.2.9.3.3 Cumulative Impacts

Most of the items listed in Table 4.1.3-1, Actions and Events that Contribute to the Cumulative Impact Scenario, have had, or could have in the future, at least indirect effects on special status plants. Invasion of native habitats by noxious weeds and other exotic species poses one of the greatest threats to native plant species and communities and is an increasing concern within the decision area. Controlling the spread of invasive plants is essential for the conservation of special status plant species; however, indiscriminate or broad scale application of chemical herbicides may also threaten sensitive plant species. Other factors that have affected special status plants and lead to their rarity include:

- Fire suppression;
- Changes in forest species composition and structure;
- Degradation of riparian habitat;
- Logging;
- Livestock grazing;
- Road construction;
- Mineral Development; and
- Recreation.

On private lands large amounts of habitat is lost and will continue to be lost as a result of development from the rapidly increasing population in the planning area (41 percent between 1990 and 2000). This loss coupled with the related increased fragmentation from development will shrink the quantity and quality of available habitats in the planning area, perhaps increasing the importance of public lands including the BLM and USFS. Implementing the RMP, as well as USFS Forest Plan Revisions would put numerous new mitigation, restoration, and conservation measures in place that would likely reduce the potential extent and severity of impacts from other actions. Implementing several programs, such as CNFISH, could combine with similar programs on USFS lands to rehabilitate damaged lands such as riparian areas. Actions on BLM lands would have a noticeable effect at the local level, but because of the small total area of scattered parcels, the RMP's

contribution to cumulative effects on special status plants across northern Idaho is relatively small. The actions of the USFS shape the conditions of much of northern Idaho.

The same types of cumulative effects would occur under all alternatives. Generally, Alternative C would contribute the greatest potential for improvement in special status plant populations, habitat, and potential habitat in northern Idaho because of numerous management actions, mitigation measures, and restrictions. Alternatives A and B would likely contribute less to any improvements in special status plant habitat conditions across northern Idaho due to more of a focus on commodities, especially under Alternative B. Alternative D is generally intermediate between Alternatives B and D in most regards.

4.2.10 Wildland Fire Management

4.2.10.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions were analyzed to determine whether they could result in impacts on wildland fire management by causing change to any of the following indicators:

- Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC)
- Firefighter safety
- Wildland fire management efficiency

4.2.10.2 Impacts

Impacts from Air Quality Management

Actions for meeting air quality standards (which are the same for all alternatives) have been in force since the 1980s, and past experience shows that restrictions on burning to minimize impacts on air quality may affect the prescribed burning program by reducing opportunities to burn in any given year. However, it is not expected that restrictions would reduce burning opportunities over the 15-year planning period. This may prolong the time required to return the FRCC to historic conditions and reduce wildland fire management efficiency, but it would not affect firefighter safety.

Impacts from Vegetation: Forests and Woodlands Management

Under all alternatives, forest vegetation treatments that return stands to historic conditions will contribute to reducing the FRCC. Species composition is an FRCC indicator. Thus changing species composition to historic conditions would bring the FRCC closer to historic conditions. Contribution toward lowering FRCC would correspond with the number of acres treated. Alternative A would treat 7,000 acres. Compared to Alternative A, Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would reduce treatments by 83 percent, and Alternative D would increase treatments by 17 percent. Due to the small number of acres treated under any of the alternatives, treatments alone are unlikely to be enough to lower the FRCC for any cover type across the CdA FO. Also, according to BLM policy, fire, which would be used to varying degrees among the alternatives, must be used to change an FRCC 2 rating to a 1. Any timber harvesting, followed by effective fuel reduction, would reduce fuel loads in the long term, lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire over time. The focus of efforts under all alternatives would be within the WUI.

Alternative C identifies a much smaller area for treatment than the other alternatives, and it emphasizes the use of natural disturbance. This alternative would continue the progression that has resulted in the current FRCC for dry conifer, wet/cold conifer, and wet/warm conifer, which has resulted from a lack of disturbance, because the proposed treatment acres are not extensive enough to change the conditions. Although some fires would burn within their historic range of intensity, severity, and size, overall FRCC would not be reduced by management actions, leaving the area at higher risk for fires burning outside the natural conditions under which the vegetation developed. Douglas-fir would continue to encroach on areas historically dominated by ponderosa pine, creating ladder fuels and increasing the fuel loadings. Forest litter would continue to accumulate on the forest floor, leading to a thick duff layer. As these fuels accumulate, fire behavior becomes more intense and effects are more severe. The dry conifer type historically experienced frequent low-severity fire. Once a wildland fire burns in this type, the dry conifer type would be considered in FRCC 1 for 15 to 35 years. Although some fires could burn within their historic range of intensity, severity and size, overall this alternative could result in less frequent fires burning at higher intensity and severity.

Trees that would have been able to withstand the low-intensity, low-severity fires may not be able to withstand the higher-intensity fires due to roots being killed by the increased thickness of the duff layer and ladder fuels allowing fires to burn stems and kill tree crowns. These higher intensity fires would have much greater resistance to control efforts thereby increasing both size and rate of spread which in turn would increase potential danger to firefighters and the public.

Impacts from Vegetation – Nonforested Management

Under the action alternatives, allowing natural recovery (Alternative B), restoring native communities (Alternatives C and D), and preventing tree encroachment (Alternatives B, C, and D) would contribute to reducing the FRCC but not enough to lower it to FRCC 1. This action could increase fine fuels and affect fire behavior by allowing more frequent fire ignitions but would lower the intensities of fires to within historic range of variability. If BLM conducts prescribed burns, or allows fire use on nonforested vegetation, the FRCC could be lowered to FRCC 1.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) prohibit the use of some suppression methods in riparian conservation areas. They also require developing strategies that recognize the role fire plays in ecosystems, including riparian ecosystems. In the event that fire would damage the long-term ecosystem function or inland native fish, avoiding the use of these fire suppression methods would not be required. Since riparian conservation areas are generally in fire regime IV, fire occurrence is infrequent and it is not likely that native fish protection would increase FRCC, particularly since fire ecology is to be considered.

Protecting and enhancing riparian and aquatic ecosystems (Alternative A) or high quality aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats (Alternatives B, C and D) may alter the type of wildland fire management actions that can occur in these areas, mainly the type of suppression, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR), or fuel reduction that may occur. Overall, management goals for wildland fire management can be achieved while implementing the protection measures for INFISH or CNFISH.

Elk Habitat Guidelines contain some direction on the type, size, and timing of activities in important ranges. These guidelines could influence fire management decisions, particularly related to fuel reduction treatments and post-activity burning or piling in these areas. Goals for wildland fire management could still be achieved while following the Elk Habitat Guidelines. Wildland fire suppression under all alternatives or wildland fire use under Alternatives B, C, and D would not be affected.

Since nearly all of the proposed vegetation treatments are designed to improve FRCC at least to some degree, restrictions and requirements to protect fish and wildlife that limit vegetation treatments under all alternatives, would have a corresponding effect on wildland fire management. Under Alternative D, providing closed canopy old growth for white-tailed deer may prohibit treatment that could reduce FRCC in some areas. However, this requirement applies to only 4,337 acres, so wildland fire management goals could still be met. Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are two treatments that may be avoided in white-tailed deer key winter range, depending on site-specific assessment.

All alternatives call for closing roads when no longer needed for their intended purpose, to prevent habitat fragmentation. This would make these roads unavailable for emergency fire response and would reduce access for suppression response or management of ignited fire treatment.

4.2.10 Wildland Fire Management

Maintaining adequate habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent animals under all alternatives would be considered in fire planning and may require adjustments to burn plans or vegetation treatments. These types of requirements are common procedure, so this would not be considered an effect on wildland fire management.

Under Alternatives A, B, and D, creating small clearcuts revegetated with white clover (Alternatives A and B) or native grass and forbs (Alternative D) would reduce heavy fuels. White clover may also burn differently than native plants by reducing spread rates due to high moisture content. White clover is easily killed by fall fires, so in areas where it has replaced native vegetation, additional ESR may be required following wildland fire. Clearcuts may affect wildland fires in these areas by making them easier to control once the activity fuels are removed to meet the Idaho Forest Practices Act, until the forest is reestablished. Under this alternative, these areas may also be suitable for wildland fire use, if they are not located in the WUI.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, protection of special status species habitat could place constraints on vegetation treatments which would make them less effective at reducing FRCC.

Current management is not specific about special status species management direction. However, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) provide specific direction by species. Actions to protect bald eagles and cavity-dependent species would alter fire management plans. In a very few instances, protecting snags used by bald eagles may not be possible during fire suppression due to safety concerns. None of these protections would affect FRCC or fire fighter safety, but they may reduce the efficiency of some wildland fire management actions. Protections for bald eagles would have the same effect as those described under fish and wildlife for the use of CNFISH.

Actions to recover grizzly bears would result in decreased efficiency for wildland fire management where road access would need to be reduced to meet the guidelines. Reduced access may make control more difficult and allow fires to become larger and burn more acres. This would affect about 1,660 acres.

Spalding's catchfly habitat occurs in the dry conifer type. Protection of this species would be considered for appropriate management response, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, and during preparation of burn plans for prescribed fire. Protection may require some alteration of activities, affecting wildland fire efficiency, but since most activities could still occur, these are not likely to hinder achievement of fire management or fuel reduction goals and would not affect FRCC or firefighter safety.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Wildland fires would continue to occur under all alternatives. Suppression tactics would be similar under each alternative because they emphasize firefighter and public safety and have the same criteria for prioritizing suppression. Wildland fire use may occur under Alternatives B, C, and D, but due to suppression criteria and safety concerns, total acres burned by either wildland fire or wildland fire use would likely be the same for all alternatives.

Alternative A: Under current management, there is a lack of specific direction on reducing FRCC. Suppression of all wildland fires using Appropriate Management Response would consider values at risk, firefighter safety, and resources available. By BLM policy, firefighter and public safety are important factors in appropriate fire suppression decisions. Full suppression on all fire starts reaching control status within one operational period requires Appropriate Management Response (AMR) and does not consider the benefit fire

may have for resource management or resources at risk in making fire suppression decisions. Thus fire use would not be an option for reducing FRCC.

Alternatives B, C, and D: Implementing appropriate fire suppression actions to protect significant timber and natural resource values would protect values associated with timber and other natural resources, but may reduce the potential for use of fire to reduce FRCC. Using the wildland fire situation analysis (WFSA) process to employ suppression tactics to protect economically valuable resources and assets would focus suppression, considering available resources and potential outcomes, adding to fire management efficiency. Applying MIST in special designation areas (e.g., WSA, ACEC, and Recreation Sites) would protect special areas from fire suppression impacts on the extent possible, but may also reduce the potential for use of fire to reduce FRCC. Approximately 52,319 acres would provide resource benefits, while not damaging WUI- related economically valuable resources or assets. Wildland fire use would reduce FRCC on areas where they occur. Wildland fire use outside the WUI would help to restore vegetation conditions (reduce FRCC) in many areas where fire exclusion has caused a change in the vegetative structure and composition.

Alternatives B and D would improve or protect economically valuable resources through the use of fuels treatment activities. Identifying areas and planning where fuels treatments would improve or protect economically valuable resources and emphasize utilization of small diameter trees would direct treatments to areas where economically valuable resources could be protected. This focus would improve fire management efficiency. Conducting thinning in areas where fuel structure is a concern would reduce the fuel loadings and possibly reduce fire behavior and effects. This may include a reduction of crown fires, smaller fires, and fires that burn less intensely, and lower fires resistance to control efforts. Treatments to reduce the impacts from wildfire in WUI, municipal watersheds, and infrastructure would reduce the risk of damage from wildland fire in these areas. In the long term, this could result in fewer resources expended on fire suppression in these areas and more efficient protection of firefighter and public safety.

Alternative C focuses suppression efforts on protecting noncommodity resources and the use of MIST; this alternative would not strive for full suppression on all fire starts. It is possible that overall fire size may be greater in this alternative than other alternatives. However, since criteria for allowing wildland fire use would be the same for all alternatives, and firefighter and public safety are always the top priority, it is likely that most fires would be suppressed under all alternatives and that the effects would be the same. The slight possibility of additional acres burned is not great enough to be reflected in FRCC.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Only the most restrictive VRM classes, VRM I and II, would have a notable effect on fire management. Fire suppression actions such as fire line construction, retardant use (because of its color), and tree and vegetation removal would be avoided in VRM Class I areas, which may affect wildland fire management on 21,714 acres within WSAs across all alternatives. Of these, 993 acres are within the WUI. Visual impact from retardant is, however, a temporary situation and would wash away within less than a season from rain. The entire spectrum of suppression responses will be considered during the WFSA process. In VRM I and II areas, emphasis will be given to MIST tactics, and fire suppression activities such as line construction, retardant use, and vegetation removal *may* be avoided in VRM Class I areas. However, BLM will use whatever suppression tactics necessary for safety and to protect lives, regardless of VRM.

VRM Class II is somewhat restrictive and may require alterations of wildland fire management, particularly fuel reduction and vegetation treatment. These alterations may cause reduced effectiveness of the treatments,

which could mean that the FRCC would remain higher. Impacts would correspond with number of acres classified as VRM II (see table below).

Table 4.2.10-1 Acres of WUI by VRM Class

	Alternatives A & B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
	In WUI	Total	In WUI	Total	In WUI	Total
Acres of VRM Class I	993	21,714	993	21,714	993	21,714
Acres of VRM Class II	3,039	14,312	13,066	42,273	6,504	23,551

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Silvicultural treatments designed to remove excess trees (e.g., thinnings) and regeneration treatments cause a short-term increase in fuel loading. The short-term impact usually lasts less than two years and is dependent on timing of fuels treatment following completion of the silvicultural treatment. Treatment of fuels resulting from harvesting operations usually mitigates the increased fuel loading and may reduce fuel loading to below pretreatment conditions. Additional treatment of fuels will further decrease post-silvicultural treatment fuel loading to below pretreatment conditions. Fuels reduction treatments using fire will usually have a more immediate effect on reducing fuel loading than those treatments that rely solely on mechanical means because some mechanical treatments can cause a temporary increase in fuel loading (usually less than two years). In the case of precommercial thinnings the temporary increase in fuel loading lasts until the excess material begins rotting and recycling back into the soil (usually in three to five years). The extent of the effects of fuels treatments from each alternative is based on the acreage treated in each alternative, as described above. The extent of these effects would be determined by the number of the acres that would be treated under each alternative, as described in Section 4.2.4, *Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands*.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

The use of biomass for energy would reduce fuel levels following silvicultural treatments, lowering the potential for fire. Biomass would likely be a byproduct of forest vegetation treatments, and the magnitude of impacts would correspond with the acres to be treated under each alternative, which is described under the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Since all alternatives make exceptions for motorized use closures for fire suppression and emergency vehicle access, travel management would not directly affect fire efficiency by increasing response time. However, when motorized access is prohibited or limited, undesignated roads would not be maintained and may become overgrown with vegetation, blocked by fallen trees, or impassible due to cutback, fillslope, or stream crossing failure. Extended response times can have negative impacts on fire management efficiency and firefighter safety. However, the incidence of human-caused ignitions would be reduced in areas closed to motorized use. These impacts would correspond with the area designated closed, the area designated open, and the miles of designated trails under each alternative, as depicted in the table below.

Table 4.2.10-2 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	33,567 ac	96,608 ac	96,549 ac	96,139ac
Designated Roads and Trails	27 mi	282 mi	122 mi	175 mi

4.2.10.3 Cumulative Effects

Effects on wildland fire management due to any of the alternatives is overshadowed by reasonably foreseeable stand replacing fire, continued fire suppression made necessary by WUI and intermingled landownership, and large scale insect and diseases that would continue for the planning period.

Effects on wildland fire management, including FRCC and firefighter and public safety due to management accomplished by other landowners may affect wildland fire management on public lands. When activity fuels are not treated adequately, fuel hazard could increase on adjacent lands which could affect fire intensity and severity on public lands. When adjacent owners treat fuels or implement fire mitigation plans in the WUI, fires are easier to suppress and firefighter safety is increased.

Revision of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan could result in more or less treatment of adjacent areas, although, because no decision has been made, the effects are not known. Wildland fire management on US Forest Service lands will be determined in the plan decision, particularly areas where wildland fire use may occur. BLM would need to coordinate with USFS on all wildland fire use actions and events. Wildland fire use on US Forest Service lands could affect FRCC on BLM lands.

Additionally, a decision to increase the level of wildland fire use or prescribed fire, along with agricultural field burning could impact the BLM's ability to use wildland fire and prescribed fire due to air quality concerns and meeting the air quality requirements. This could postpone or eliminate fuel reductions or treatments to improve FRCC.

Root rot has and will continue to cause mortality in Douglas-fir and grand fir. When areas heavily infected with root rot are harvested, root rot disease often spreads to the residual Douglas-fir, grand fir, and any true firs. Insect infestations could be exacerbated by inappropriate management, which could affect public lands. Additionally, a lack of appropriate treatment or lack of wildfire suppression or fuel reduction treatments could cause more mortality on public lands when wildland fire or insects spread. High mortality could increase FRCC.

Human population increases and subsequent development are likely to expand the WUI, which in turn could alter forest management, taking the emphasis off restoring historic composition and structure and focusing more on fuel reduction (albeit, these are sometime the same thing).

Access is a critical component of wildland fire suppression. A trend toward reducing access to public lands is due to adjacent landowners gating or closing roads, which could hamper wildland fire suppression efforts and pose a risk to public and firefighter safety. Reducing access would also increase the potential for larger fires to occur due to an increase in time needed to access the fire and control it. Time needed to move in crews would be extended, and the ability to effectively apply and place resources (e.g., engines, water tenders, etc.) would be limited.

Listings under the Endangered Species Act may affect fuel reduction treatments, and in some cases, wildland fire suppression actions. Generally, this may result in more acres burned, or burned at higher severity. Special status listing does not override protection of life and property during wildland fire suppression, so firefighter and public safety would not be compromised.

4.2.11 Cultural Resources

4.2.11.1 Methods of Analysis

Impacts on cultural resources occur when the potential for damage or loss of these resources changes. The primary indicator for determining if an impact would occur is the effects on National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible cultural resources or areas of importance to Native American or other traditional communities. Specific indicators include the following:

- Acres and relative depth of ground-disturbing activities permitted and their potential for affecting known or unknown intact cultural resources or areas of importance to Native American or other traditional communities;
- Increased access to or activity in areas where resources are present or anticipated;
- The extent to which an action changes the potential for erosion or other natural process that could affect cultural resources; and
- The extent to which an action alters the setting (such as visual and audio factors) of cultural resources.

Impacts on cultural resources are assessed by applying the criteria of adverse effect as defined in 36 CFR 800.5a: "An adverse effect is found when an action may alter the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, or association. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the action that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative." The criteria of adverse effect provide a general framework for identifying and determining the context and intensity of potential impacts on other categories of cultural resources as well, if these are present. Assessment of effects involving Native American or other traditional community, cultural, or religious practices or resources also requires focused consultation with the affected group.

The following assumptions regarding the resource base and management practices were made in the analysis:

- Most of the planning area has not been inventoried for cultural resources. There is potential for cultural resource occurrence in unsurveyed areas, but the presence and significance of resources and impacts cannot be quantified. Recorded cultural resources are primarily from the historic era.
- Traditional cultural properties (TCPs) are places associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. These cultural resource sites are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining cultural identity. Contemporary Native American groups, such as the Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and Kalispel Tribes, maintain social and cultural ties to the land and resources of the planning area. These cultural resources are generally not known or discussed outside of the affected community but may be present in the planning area. Impacts on broader tribal interests in the natural resources of the planning area and the exercise of tribal treaty rights are discussed in Section 4.5.3, Native American Tribal Uses.
- Impacts would be minimized or avoided by compliance with laws and executive orders designed to preserve and protect cultural resources. These include FLPMA Sections 103(c), 201(a), 202(c), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Sections 106 and 110(a), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Section 14(a), the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act

(NAGPRA), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), and Executive Orders 13175 and 13007.

4.2.11.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soils Management

Measures to limit soil erosion and ground-disturbing activities under all alternatives would enhance the preservation of archaeological resources in the long term.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Actions to restore watersheds and improve water quality may risk direct disturbance of cultural resources through ground-disturbing activities or temporary loss of access to any TCPs. Watershed improvements that reduce erosion would enhance site preservation. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) place more emphasis and provide more direction for watershed improvements, which would slightly increase the potential for related impacts.

Impacts from Vegetation (All Types) Management

Under all of the alternatives, there would be long-term effects associated with enhancing culturally significant plant and animal habitat and eroding archaeological sites. There could be short-term impacts due to loss of access during treatment or closures for cultural uses. There could be long-term impacts due to ground disturbance associated with treatments, the effects of chemicals, and introduction of seeds and pollens, which may affect the accuracy of paleobotanical data on archaeological sites. Impacts would likely correspond with area treated or protected under each alternative. Alternative A calls for forest vegetation treatments on 7,000 acres for these purposes. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C calls for a 83 percent reduction, while D calls for a 17 percent increase.

All alternatives establish a PFC objective (75 percent for A, C, and D; 50 percent for Alternative B) for the riparian and wetland areas, and call for maintaining desirable plant communities, and preventing and controlling invasive species. These actions in the long term may reduce erosion of archaeological sites and the risk to cultural resources from wildland fire.

Alternative C would prevent off-road motorized use and access for the purpose of maintaining desired plant communities in nonforested areas, which would also reduce the risk to cultural resources from direct disturbance, soil compaction, altered surface water drainage, erosion, intrusions to setting, and access, leading to vandalism and unauthorized collecting.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Under all alternatives, there would be long-term indirect effects associated with enhancement of culturally significant plant and animal habitat, as well as short-term effects due to loss of access and alterations of setting during treatment or seasonal closures. Closing roads and establishing riparian buffers could indirectly reduce the potential for direct disturbance of cultural resources and access, thus reducing vandalism and unauthorized collecting.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B there is an additional emphasis on measures to promote commodity and recreational species. These include species that have been fished or hunted traditionally, and these actions would enhance opportunities to continue cultural use. Increased recreational use can be associated with repetitive ground-disturbing activities and the potential for disturbance of cultural resources, especially archaeological sites.

Alternative C: Alternative C emphasizes using minimal management and human intervention to achieve better habitat conditions and would not promote commodity and recreational uses. Cultural resources would generally be subject to less risk of disturbance under Alternative C from treatments or commodity uses.

Alternative D: Alternative D includes more treatment, human intervention, and management to improve fish and wildlife habitat than under Alternative C and less than under Alternative B. Cultural resources would generally be subject to more risk of disturbance than under Alternatives A and C but less than under Alternative B from this proposed level of activity.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, measures that reduce incompatible uses to preserve special status species habitats would also have indirect effects on cultural resources by reducing the potential for ground-disturbing actions, erosion, alterations to setting, and vandalism. Short-term impacts could result if tribal access is not allowed to traditional use areas. The actions alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) have additional measures to protect special species habitats that would indirectly benefit the preservation of cultural resources, while potentially reducing access to any TCPs present.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Under all of the alternatives there would be long- and short-term impacts on cultural resources. Treatment is associated with potential impacts on cultural resources but in the long term could decrease the risk of impacts on cultural resources from catastrophic wildland fire and subsequent erosion.

Wildland fire can disturb cultural resources through the destruction or modification of structures, features, and artifacts. Organic materials and the information that can be obtained from their study are especially vulnerable to heat damage. Fire management and suppression activities can involve ground-disturbing activities that can also directly affect cultural resources, especially by altering the spatial relationships of archaeological sites. Fire can result in impacts through erosion and the increased visibility of cultural resources. Fire can remove vegetation and expose previously undiscovered resources, allowing their study and protection; however, sites exposed by fire or flagged for fire avoidance in prescribed fire can be susceptible to vandalism and unauthorized collection.

Alternatives B, C, and D: There are additional measures to protect or avoid known cultural resources in planning fire response and suppression. Wildland fire use would be allowed on up to 52,319 acres, increasing potential for fire-related damage to cultural resources. Fuel treatments discussed under Impacts from Vegetation management would be added, and the design of these actions and events would include consideration of impacts on cultural resources.

Impacts from Cultural Resources Management

Management measures would preserve and protect cultural resources and help ensure that they are available for appropriate uses. Impacts from proposed land use authorizations would be minimized or avoided by complying with laws and executive orders designed to preserve and protect cultural resources. Complying with management measures for authorized actions requires consulting with federally recognized tribes and other interested parties, identifying and evaluating cultural resources, and adhering to procedures for resolving any adverse effects and mitigating impacts. Inventories would help avoid and mitigate impacts from authorized actions.

Additional actions under Alternatives B, D, and D would enhance the current management of cultural resources by adding proactive research and inventories to record segments of the Mullan Trail, by scheduling

and setting goals for resource monitoring and record updating, and by preparing cultural resource management plans for the Rochat Divide area and the Liberal King mine.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Visual intrusion on the setting of cultural resources must be considered in the Section 106 process and tribal consultation, regardless of VRM designation. VRM Class I and II designations provide indirect protection for cultural resources where visual setting contributes to the significance of the property or the traditional use. Risk of impacts on cultural resources in VRM Class I and II areas would also be indirectly reduced by limitations on surface-disturbing activities in these areas. VRM I only occurs in WSAs where most management activities are not allowed. Thus designation of VRM I would have no real impact. Total area classified as VRM II varies among the alternatives: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). Magnitude of impact would likely correspond with the area designated.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management are described under Impacts from Vegetation (All Types) Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock grazing, watering locations, corrals, water haul roads, pipelines, and fences can have effects on cultural resources through direct disturbance and erosion. Actions that improve rangeland management could reduce the potential for impacts from direct disturbance and erosion. Since there are only 4,004 acres allocated to livestock grazing under Alternatives A and B, there would be little potential for these impacts to occur. There would be even less potential under Alternatives C and D, which allocate only 1,218 acres to livestock grazing.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Potential impacts of mineral and energy development on cultural resources include direct ground-disturbing activities, erosion, intrusions to setting, and access, leading to vandalism and unauthorized collection. Mineral and energy development includes stipulations to protect resources, and impacts would be considered in the Section 106 process in consultation with tribal governments. Alternatives A and B would allow the most opportunities for mineral developments and impacts, since only 5,376 acres would be withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes an additional 24,370 acres to be withdrawn, while Alternative D identifies only 27 more acres than current management for withdrawal.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Recreational use can affect cultural resources through direct disturbance, soil compaction, altered surface water drainage, erosion, intrusions to setting, and access leading to vandalism and unauthorized collecting. Generally, impacts will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on cultural resources more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Open motorized vehicle use can affect cultural resources through direct disturbance, soil compaction, altered surface water drainage, erosion, intrusions to setting, and access, leading to unauthorized collection or

vandalism. Transportation access can facilitate access to any TCPs but can also increase risk of impacts on resources. Restricting vehicle use to designated routes would reduce the risk of disturbance of cultural resources located off of travel routes. Therefore, Alternative A would have the greatest potential for impacts due to the area open to off-road motorized travel (see table below). Alternative B poses the second greatest risk due to the miles of designated road, and conversely Alternative C poses the least. The small variation in area closed to motorized travel does not make a notable difference in potential for impacts.

Table 4.2.11-1 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	33,567 ac	96,608 ac	96,549 ac	96,139ac
Designated Roads and Trails	27 mi	282 mi	122 mi	175 mi

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Criteria and priorities for land tenure adjustments under Alternatives C and D include consideration of significant cultural resources and areas of importance to Native American communities, not listed under Alternatives A and B. The acquisition of new land would provide long-term federal protection to any cultural resources included in the transaction and could enhance currently managed resources by consolidating holdings. Transfer of public lands to nonfederal entities would permanently remove federal protections for significant cultural resources. Removing federal protections is an adverse effect under the NHPA, which would be addressed and resolved in the Section 106 process prior to adjustment. If land tenure adjustments increase public access, there could be increased risk of vandalism or unauthorized collection of cultural resources, but this could also facilitate cultural use of TCPs.

Designating ROW corridors, exclusion zones, and avoidance zones can limit uses that may be incompatible with the preservation of cultural resources.

Alternative A: Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. Thus related impacts could occur anywhere in the planning area unless restricted by other management direction.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. There would be no potential for related impacts on cultural resources to occur in exclusion areas, and the potential would be greatly reduced in avoidance areas. However, these designations would also concentrate authorizations within the remaining 51,548 acres, which could increase the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative C: This alternative would involve 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The impacts within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the differences in area. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres, with a corresponding increase in the intensity of localized impacts.

Alternative D: This alternative would involve 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas. The impacts within these areas would be the same as described for Alternative B, corresponding to the slight differences in area. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,427 acres.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations and area-specific management plans, for those that are related to preservation of cultural resources, provide long-term protection of cultural resources by restricting incompatible uses. Special designations that would restrict surface disturbance or other disruptive activities would indirectly provide protection to cultural resources. Designations that encourage recreation can increase human use and direct disturbance of cultural resources.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Cultural resources would be indirectly protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where most activities that could cause impacts on cultural are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect impacts on cultural resources, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation would similarly protect cultural resources. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer), and very little ability to influence the buffer. Of the remaining protected corridors, all but about 300 acres fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which is already protected. Thus, protection of eligible segments would add little to protection cultural resources, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect water quality as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of cultural resources.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect cultural resources through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded, unless the WSAs were released by Congress. Of the new ACECs, two would be designated specifically to protect known cultural resource values. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. Only one of the new areas would be designated to protect cultural values. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice Management

All alternatives include provisions to consult with tribal groups, to improve natural and cultural resource conditions, and to identify, enhance, and facilitate cultural uses of significant plants, animals, fish, and important habitats. Recognition and inclusion of tribal knowledge and concerns with cultural resources and

traditional uses would enhance the management of resources in the long term. Some use locations may be TCPs and may need to be considered in the Section 106 process.

Safety considerations and hazard reduction may require removing historic structures and features and can involve ground and other disturbances. The impacts of hazard reduction and removal actions would be addressed in the Section 106 process and adverse effects resolved. AML inventory and collection of history information contributes to understanding the cultural resources present.

4.2.11.3 Cumulative Effects

Other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions that are relevant to cultural resources in the cumulative impact area include land tenure changes, wildland fire and wildland fire use and suppression, fuel and vegetation treatments including prescribed fire, timber harvest, mineral and energy development, population growth, urban development, growth in recreational uses, OHV use, closed access, restoration activities, regional planning efforts, vandalism and unauthorized collecting at cultural sites, and recognition and assertion of tribal rights and traditional uses. The types of impacts that have occurred and would continue to occur include destruction of cultural resources, loss of integrity due to physical or other disturbances, loss of setting, the effects of natural processes such as erosion and weathering, incremental disturbance from use or access, loss of access to traditional cultural properties, and impacts from vandalism and unauthorized collection.

Past land disposals to nonfederal entities have resulted in the loss of federal cultural resource protection on these lands. Up to 24,930 acres would be considered for future land tenure adjustments under the RMP. Although cultural resource values are considered in the acquisition and disposal of lands, some resources have likely not been identified prior to disposal and impacts have likely occurred. In cases where resources are identified, mitigations to resolve adverse effects can preclude other desirable management options.

Increased frequency of wildland fire in the cumulative impact area, wildland fire use and suppression are associated with surface and other disturbances to cultural resources. Fuel and vegetation treatments including prescribed fire treatment, timber harvest, and ecosystem restoration actions planned regionally are associated with impacts to cultural resources due to ground disturbance, the effects of chemicals and fire, introduction of seeds and pollens that can affect archaeological data, and potential loss of access to TCPs. Actions proposed in the RMP for wildland fire range from full suppression to allowing wildland fire use on up to 52,319 acres. Under the RMP up to 9,600 treatment acres would be added. Stipulations for fire management, vegetation treatments and restoration actions address a range of cultural resource concerns. Impacts would be assessed and avoided, but identification of all resources is not possible and some effects cannot be avoided. In the long-term these actions would be expected to reduce direct impacts to cultural resources resulting from frequent and intense wildland fire.

Population growth, construction associated with urban development, access changes, and growth in recreation have impacted cultural resources through loss or disturbance of resources that are not protected, changes in setting, pressure from incremental use, loss of access to TCPs and in access leading to vandalism of cultural resources. Historic properties adjacent to areas of growth and development would be most susceptible to future impacts. As with other regional plans, areas where open OHV use is allowed would be further restricted under all of the alternatives except Alternative A. Designating routes can protect cultural resources located off the routes, but restrictions are difficult to enforce, especially as population and recreational use grows and other areas are closed.

There are ongoing actions by Native American groups to assert tribal rights and traditional uses throughout the region. The RMP recognizes that tribal knowledge contributes to the management of cultural resources and that traditional use areas or sacred sites can be TCPs that need to be treated as protected cultural resources.

Actions related to grazing, energy and mineral development have had an effect in the past on cultural resources. Current and future activities regionally and in the planning area do not anticipate major actions that could impact cultural resources. Historic mining structures are likely to be removed as part of AML activities for safety and to improve watersheds.

For actions that could affect cultural resources on federal land or actions that are funded, licensed, or permitted by the federal government, compliance is required with the NHPA and other laws, statutes, and regulations. Consideration of the effects of undertakings on protected cultural resources would be required and any adverse effects resolved. For many types of cultural resources, information on the regional cultural resource base is not available and needs to be developed to properly assess the significance of the resource base. State agency actions using federal funds or needing a federal permit require cultural resource review. Impacts on cultural resources would be avoided or mitigated in many of the regional actions. Some impacts would be unavoidable. Measures are in place to identify threats to resources and to prioritize management actions, but some impacts on known or unknown cultural resources resulting from activities such as natural processes, wildland fire, grazing, dispersed recreation, OHV use, and vandalism can go unnoticed and may not be mitigated. Mitigation could preclude other desirable management options and future uses. Development or actions on lands that are not protected by federal or other cultural resource statutes and regulatory protections could lead to loss of these resources and the regional heritage and knowledge that they contain.

Cumulative effects would be similar among the alternatives. Alternative A would contribute more to regional cumulative effects as a result of open OHV use and wildland fire suppression. Alternatives B, C, and D provide more management measures than Alternative A that would directly or indirectly reduce the potential for impacts. The emphasis in Alternative C on actions that value resource conservation, protection and minimal human intervention would have the least impact or risk of impacts to cultural resources and would contribute the least to cumulative impacts.

4.2.12 Visual Resources

4.2.12.1 Methods of Analysis

Management objectives and actions could result in impacts on visual resources if any management actions were to directly or indirectly change the quality of viewsheds available. While visual quality may change on the local scale, none of the alternatives would result in a change in VRM class, due to the small scale of potential actions and the small landbase affected.

4.2.12.2 Impacts

Impacts from Air Quality Management

Under all alternatives, objectives to minimize degradation of the airshed, to cooperate with other members of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, and to ensure activities meet federal and Idaho DEQ air quality standards and regulatory requirements would be continued. This would continue to promote visually clear skies over public lands.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, BLM would continue to protect and maintain watersheds so that they appropriately capture, retain, and release water that meets or exceeds state and federal water quality standards. This objective would promote clean water in streams and lakes, resulting in visually clear aquatic landscapes.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

The primary impacts on visual quality from forest vegetation treatments would be from vegetation removal, smoke and dead vegetation from prescribed fire, and road construction. Impacts would correspond with the number of acres treated. Alternative A calls for treating 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would result in an 83 percent reduction, while D would increase 17 percent. Thus Alternative C would cause the least, and Alternative B would cause the most impacts on visual quality. Impacts would primarily occur in VRM III and IV areas, since only minor impacts would be allowed in VRM II areas, and no treatments are allowed in WSA/VRM I areas.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Under all alternatives, the BLM would stabilize and prevent degradation to natural and cultural resources minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effect of fire, and repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources. The BLM would repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally (due to nonnative invasive plants and/or other site-specific situations), repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire, and, when needed, implement rehabilitation activities as soon as possible and complete these activities within three years after a wildfire. This would continue to protect visual resources by minimizing the extent and severity of wildfire impacts on the natural landscape and enhance visual resources by rehabilitating landscapes damaged by wildfires. However, it would also continue to damage visual resources because the use of fire lines and retardant would cause noticeable changes to the natural environment. Impacts from the use of fire retardants would only be temporary due to the amount of rainfall and vegetation cover types in the planning area.

Effects on visual resources from conducting treatments in WUI areas would be similar under all alternatives. Fuels treatment could include, for example, thinning and prescribed burns, which would remove vegetation. However, it would also protect visual resources by reducing the extent and severity of a potential uncontrolled wildfire by removing fuels that support wildfires. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) would

allow consideration of fire use on 52,319 acres. This could result in major changes to the visual landscape from allowing fire to burn.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

VRM classifications affect visual resources by placing limitations on the visual impacts that are allowed to occur. VRM Class I allows only very low changes to the landscape that do not attract attention. This designation only applies to WSAs, where no notable changes to visual quality would be permitted. Actions within areas designated VRM II would only be allowed to make small changes to the landscape that could be seen, but not do not attract attention of the casual observer. Thus only minor changes to visual quality would be allowed in these areas. In areas designated VRM Class III, moderate changes to the landscape would be allowed that may attract attention, but do not dominate the landscape. Thus, more VRM III and IV area results in more potential for impacts on visual quality. Conversely, more VRM II area designated reduces the potential for impacts. VRM I area is the same for all alternatives (see table below). Alternative C designates the greatest amount of VRM II and would have the least potential for changes to visual quality. Alternatives A and B have the most VRM III and IV, and would have the greatest potential for changes to visual quality.

VRM Classification	Alternatives A and B (acres)	Alternative C (acres)	Alternative D (acres)
VRM I	21,714	21,714	21,714
VRM II	14,312	42,273	23,551
VRM III	33,259	31,429	50,152
VRM IV	27,480	1,350	1,350

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Impacts are described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forest and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Minerals Management

New structures, roads, and operations associated with mineral developments would result in long-term impacts on visual resources. Alternatives A and B would allow the most opportunities for mineral developments and impacts, since only 5,376 acres would be withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes an additional 24,370 acres to be withdrawn, while Alternative D identifies only 27 more acres than current management for withdrawal.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Impacts on visual quality from recreational use include removal of vegetation and exposure of soils. Generally, impacts will be less in SRMAs than in the ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond inversely to the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts on visual quality more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Off-road motorized vehicle travel (except snowmobiles) can greatly impact visual quality through destruction of vegetation and creation of new roads and trails. Only Alternative A allows off-road travel. Travel designations under the other alternatives would not allow these impacts to occur.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Rights-of-way and use authorizations are generally for road construction, maintenance and use, or for development of facilities. These actions could degrade visual quality. Such authorization and actions would not occur within ROW exclusion areas, and would only be allowed within avoidance areas when there is no other practical location. Since no impacts would be allowed in VRM I areas, and only minimal would be allowed in VRM II areas, impacts from ROW and use authorizations would primarily occur within VRM III and IV areas. The potential for impacts on occur would correspond with the amount of VRM III and IV area that is not within an exclusion or avoidance areas.

Table 4.2.12-2 VRM III and IV Area Outside of Avoidance and Exclusion Areas

	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D
VRM III & IV (acres)	60,739*	73,157	50,819	83,631

*This is the total VRM III and IV area since Alternative A has no avoidance or exclusion areas under.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

ACEC designations could help to protect scenic quality either indirectly by limiting uses, or directly if scenic values are specifically identified for protection. Protective management of stream segments found eligible or suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation could provide similar indirect protection, or directly in the case of scenic stream segments.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Visual quality would be protected within these areas as a result. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, and VRM I area. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect visual quality, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protective management would be provided for five stream segments, totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. This includes 0.38 mile of Lost Lake Creek which is eligible for scenic designation. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer), and very little ability to influence visual quality. Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would be no real added protection, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect visual quality as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection for visual quality.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect visual quality through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. About 21,245 acres of the additional area is within the Rochat Divide and Little North Fork of the Clearwater, both of which would be designated for scenic values. However, 18,065 acres of these two ACECs is also within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, and has VRM I designation. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs/VRM I) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of visual quality. No ACECs are proposed for scenic values under this alternative. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Social and Economic Management

Health and Safety. The BLM would correct physical safety hazards and clean up hazardous materials sites on public lands. The BLM would continue to manage and clean up contaminated public lands in the Coeur d'Alene Basin and in parts of the expanded Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site listing. There would be no change in the cleanup of contaminated land, so there would be no new effects.

4.2.12.3 Cumulative Effects

A variety of events within the planning area affect visual resources. Events affecting visual resources that have occurred, are occurring, and will occur include wildland fires, wildland fire suppression, mining, motorized vehicle use, noxious weed invasion, urban sprawl, and road construction. Some of the events, such as wildland fires, cannot be entirely prevented by the BLM; the BLM has a greater control over other activities, such as mining and motorized vehicle use. In some instances, the BLM must work in cooperation with cities and counties to address some issues, such as urban sprawl. Urban sprawl results in the public living closer to public lands and, in turn, creates challenges to managing visual resources on public lands immediately adjacent to urban areas. It is assumed that the BLM would continue to work cooperatively with others and manage the land in the best interest of the public, thereby continuing to protect the visual resources on public land with the aid of VRM class designations and the visual resources contrast rating stage. It is also assumed that the BLM would update its VRM class designations, if necessary.

4.3 RESOURCE USES

4.3.1 Forestry and Woodland Products

4.3.1.1 Methods of Analysis

Types of management objectives and actions proposed for different resources, including Forest/Woodland vegetation, could both directly and indirectly impact forest/woodland product management, through changes in quantity and availability of these products. Changes could be indicated by:

- Acres available for production of forest products;
- Availability of forest products
- Ability of public lands to meet current and future (trends) demands for forest products (sawlogs, small wood, hog fuel, etc.); and
- Forest products sold (measured in board feet) does not exceed anticipated growth over the planning period (15 years).

4.3.1.2 Impacts

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Types of vegetation and forest fuel treatments and acres to be treated would affect the type(s) and quantity of forest products that would be made available. The types of forest products that could come from public lands are sawlogs, hew wood, ton wood, and hog fuel. Hew wood is generally small saw logs ranging in size from 4” to 9” in diameter at the small end. Ton wood often consists of material that cannot make quality sawlogs or hew wood but can be turned into chips used to make pulp for paper products. However, sometimes during a weak hew wood and sawlog market, lower quality sawlogs are bought by mills as ton wood. Hog fuel is most commonly waste products left over from saw mills and hew wood mills that cannot be used to make pulp for paper products but can be burned to run cogeneration plants and boilers. Most recently, hog fuel includes products that can be used to fuel other cogeneration plants and boilers (e.g., for heating schools in lieu of natural gas, electricity, or oil).

Sawlogs will comprise the largest portion of forest products removed from public lands, followed by hew wood.

The contribution of ton wood coming from treated lands will be dependent on the need for chips, hew wood, and/or hog fuel. Depending on the price for electricity from conventional sources and/or natural gas, the hog fuel market may or may not be able to make use of such products from public lands. Due to the costs associated with moving such material to a loading point, it is anticipated that little effort will be made to bring such material to a loading point. Most material that would be available most likely will be a result of waste products left at the landing when logging sawlogs and hew wood. Transportation costs also will limit use of such material to nearby mills, plants, and other users (e.g., schools). It is anticipated that such material probably should be within 30 to 40 miles of the mill or plant that will use it. The anticipated amount of such material to be removed during the next 15 years will be small and most likely will be comprised of waste material accumulated at landings from logging operations.

Fuel wood (firewood) will continue to be removed. Most generally, firewood comes from removal of dead trees within reach of roads or from cull logs left at landings after completion of logging operations. Most common users are private homeowners. Historically 15 to 20 firewood permits have been sold annually.

Alternative A: Currently, the PSQ is approximately 3,700 MBF annually, which would be harvested from approximately 7,000 acres. These forest products would come from three forest vegetation cover types (Dry Conifer, Wet/Cold Conifer, and Wet/Warm Conifer). Approximately 56 MMBF would be harvested over 15 years. This represents 12 percent of the anticipated growth over these three cover types (82,556 acres) during this period, or 17 percent of the anticipated growth from the non-withdrawn acres (56,465 acres).

Alternative B: This alternative treats the greatest acreage and therefore produces the greatest quantity of forest products, with a PSQ of approximately 5100 MBF annually; this would be harvested from approximately 11 percent of the CdA FO area (9,600 acres) and is an increase of 37 percent over Alternative A. These forest products would come from three forest vegetation cover types (Dry Conifer, Wet/Cold Conifer, and Wet/Warm Conifer). Approximately 77 MMBF would be harvested over 15 years. This represents 16 percent of the anticipated growth over these three cover types (82,556 acres) during this period, or 23 percent of the anticipated growth from the non-withdrawn acres (56,465 acres).

Alternative C: This alternative treats the least amount of acreage and therefore produces the least quantity of forest products, with a PSQ of approximately 880 MBF annually; this would be harvested from approximately 1 percent of the CdA FO area (1,200 acres) and is a decrease of 83 percent from Alternative A. These forest products would come from three forest vegetation cover types (Dry Conifer, Wet/Cold Conifer, and Wet/Warm Conifer). Approximately 13 MMBF would be harvested over 15 years. This represents 3 percent of the anticipated growth over these three cover types (82,556 acres) during this period, or 4 percent of the anticipated growth from the non-withdrawn acres (56,453 acres). Because this alternative relies more on disturbances, such as fire or insects, to determine where treatments will occur, it is estimated that the quantity of forest products produced per acre will be greatest (11 MBF/acre versus approximately 8 MBF/acre under Alternative A, B, and D).

Alternative D: Currently, the PSQ is approximately 4,400 MBF annually, which would be harvested from approximately 10 percent of the CdA FO area (8,200 acres); this is an increase of 17 percent over Alternative A. These forest products would come from three forest vegetation cover types (Dry Conifer, Wet/Cold Conifer, and Wet/Warm Conifer). Approximately 66 MMBF would be harvested over 15 years. This represents 14 percent of the anticipated growth over these three cover types (82,556 acres) during this period, or 20 percent of the anticipated growth from the non-withdrawn acres (56,194 acres).

All alternatives emphasize returning treated areas to the historic species composition; however, Alternatives B and D temper this goal with working toward maintaining and/or shifting structure classes. The Dry Conifer and Wet Warm Conifer could be shifted toward later seral stages, while the Wet/Cold Conifer could emphasize shifting toward the early seral stage in areas where this is lacking. As a result it is anticipated that most of the vegetation treatments will involve thinning from below (removing smaller excess trees and insect-infested and diseased trees and leaving healthy larger trees). The most common species to be removed would be Douglas-fir and grand fir. However, depending on existing stand densities, structure goals, insect and disease infestations, and poor health of individual trees in the treatment area, other species could also be harvested. Because the early seral stage is lacking in the Wet/Cold Conifer, more trees would be removed across all species, with Douglas-fir and grand fir being preferred for removal over other healthy trees.

4.3.1 Forestry and Woodland Products

Limitations for conducting treatments in the vicinity of old growth stands may reduce the quantity of product that could be harvested in these areas.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Restrictions to protect habitat (timing, stipulations, snag retention, buffers, etc.) could make forest products more difficult and expensive to remove. This would decrease the revenues that the BLM receives for forest products and would also reduce the amount of improvements that could be made to forest/woodland vegetation and other resources through timber sale contracts or stewardship contracting.

RHCAs/RCAs established by INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) would prevent harvesting of forest products on approximately 9,100 acres within these zones. Only products derived from treatments to enhance riparian habitat, which would be rare, would be obtained from these zones. INFISH/CNFISH requirements for road and landing construction could result in increased costs for removing forest products.

Under all alternatives, elk and deer habitat in forested areas would continue to require special management, which could modify timber harvest plans, making less product available. However, some forest management practices could improve habitat for big game species. In these cases there would be no impact on forest products.

Additional restrictions for snags and large trees or providing buffers may slightly reduce the amount of forest products that can be removed from each acre.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

INFISH/CNFISH impacts are discussed above under Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management. Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D), guidelines outlined for bull trout, white sturgeon, woodland caribou, bald eagle, lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, and other special status plant and animal species require special management of habitat. While some forest management practices would improve habitat for special status species, others are likely to conflict. Timber harvest plans might require modification. Habitat requirements add limitations to road and landing construction and placement. This could result in decreased quantities and increased cost for removal of forest products. Current management would likely result in the same habitat restrictions for special status species; however these would be identified during project planning and implementation, and are not specified in the current land use plan.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Current management focuses on wildland fire suppression. This would help preserve forest products for future use. Alternative B focuses fire suppression on protecting economically valuable resources which would have the same effect. Alternative C focuses suppression on protecting noncommodity resources, which may allow loss of forest products. Alternative D balances protection of commodity and noncommodity resources. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) identify 52,319 acres where fire use would be considered. Fire use could consume forest products. However, some products could become available for salvage after fire use.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Timber harvesting is not allowed within VRM I areas (WSAs). Within VRM II areas, there would be constraints on timber harvests and other forest management activities. The location and construction of access roads would also be affected. These constraints would likely reduce the quantity and potentially increase the cost of removing forest products from within these areas. The magnitude and potential for

impacts would correspond with the amount of area designated VRM II: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B; 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations); and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations).

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

The PSQ are derived directly from the number of acres to be treated under the Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands sections of the alternatives. Impacts are addressed in the Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management section below.

Areas identified with special management objectives and areas where harvesting would not be allowed are summations of the objectives and limitations from other resource and resource use objectives and action in the alternatives. Impacts from these limitations and restrictions are addressed in the applicable “Impacts from...” sections.

Impacts from Travel Management and Transportation Management

Areas closed to motorized travel would allow no access for firewood cutting. Areas are designated as closed to protect resources and these resource protection requirements usually preclude firewood cutting. Thus the closed designation does not have any real effect on forest products. Where motorized travel is limited, access for firewood cutting would correspond with the miles of designated roads. Areas open to off-road motorized travel would allow the most access for firewood cutting. Designations by alternative are shown in the table below.

Table 4.3.1-1 Transportation and Travel Management Statistics by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A (acres or miles)	Alternative B (acres or miles)	Alternative C (acres or miles)	Alternative D (acres or miles)
Open Travel Areas	63,041 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Closed Travel Areas	162 ac	162 ac	311 ac	631 ac
Limited Travel Areas	32,567 ac	96,607 ac	96,549 ac	96,139ac
Designated Roads and Trails	27 mi	282 mi	122 mi	175 mi

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Land exchanges that result in a loss of forested land could affect the availability of forest products from public lands, and in the long term affect the BLM’s ability to meet demands. The retention and acquisition areas under current management contain valuable timber lands. However, past land exchanges have resulted in net BLM losses of valuable timber lands. This trend could continue under current management. Alternatives B and D identify valuable timberlands and growing sites as a criteria for retention and acquisition. This would reduce the potential that these areas would be lost from BLM ownership and would increase the potential for gain. Alternative D does not contain these criteria, so there is a greater potential for loss of lands available to produce forest products.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations under all alternatives prevent timber harvesting from certain areas, and place limitations on harvesting in other areas. Most of the areas with special designations fall within existing WSAs where timber harvesting is not allowed. Therefore there would be no net loss to forest products in these areas with overlapping designations, unless the WSAs are released by Congress. The areas of special designation outside of the WSAs under any alternative would not be great enough to have a notable impact on forest products.

4.3.1.3 Cumulative Effects

Effects of past actions, natural events and regionwide assessments (fire, logging, insect and disease, road construction, ICBEMP, land exchange, etc.) that have affected forest products are documented in the Chapter 3, Affected Environment. The amount of forest products offered by the CdA FO has declined over the last 20 years. Further, the forest products market is shifting toward utilization of smaller diameter products and biomass to meet new demands.

All Alternatives

Timber harvesting levels have declined on all federal lands in northern Idaho, have held relatively constant on State Lands, and increased on private lands. Using 2003 figures for the 10 northern counties, the BLM produces 0.7 percent of the timber sold in northern Idaho (Forest Service 2003).

Wildland fires and insect and disease would continue to cause mortality. Currently, some of these dead trees are salvage logged, although a logging response to fire or insect and disease has also declined across all federal lands, and held relatively constant on state and private lands. It is uncertain whether future mortality would result in an increase in output (from salvage logging) or decrease in output (due to loss of tree, but no salvage).

Implementing the National Fire Plan and fuel reduction treatments could produce more commercial forest products that were not included in the PSQ determinations. Biomass (or hog fuel) was not considered in determining the PSQ because it was anticipated that most of this material would come from waste products accumulated at landings from logging operations and if economically feasible would be transported to utilization centers rather than burned on site. The effect on the overall market is expected to be minimal due to the percentage contributed to the market by public lands. These types of treatments frequently produce very small sized products or biomass. The market trend for these products is expected to increase as more mills become able to handle them and more uses for the product are developed. If technologies improve, it may be possible to economically retrieve biomass left in the treatment units. But under current conditions, it is basically not economical to retrieve biomass left in treatment units.

4.3.2 Livestock Grazing

4.3.2.1 Methods of Analysis

Management objectives and actions could result in impacts on livestock grazing management if any management actions were to directly or indirectly change the availability of the forage base allocated to livestock or influence range improvements.

Indicators that are used to quantitatively and qualitatively assess management changes that could affect livestock grazing management include the following:

- Change in acreage available for lease for grazing;
- Change in AUMs permitted on allotments;
- Alteration of the quality or quantity of forage production; and
- Altering standard range improvements.

4.3.2.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soil Resources Management

Under all alternatives, soils management considerations would generally result in enhanced vegetative conditions through actions designed to reduce erosion, which would indirectly increase forage levels that could be made available for livestock. Where the potential for accelerated erosion exists or where soil cover (vegetation and litter) may be improved, changes in the livestock season and duration of use would be required to improve vegetative cover and reduce impacts on soils. Measures identified to limit soil erosion and ground-disturbing activities affect livestock grazing activities by permanently or temporarily closing affected areas within allotments to grazing.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Any project designed to enhance watershed health would also enhance vegetation resources by reducing erosion, which would have the indirect effect of increasing forage levels for livestock. Grazing restrictions on season and duration of use could result from actions designed to protect and enhance water resources. Protection of water quality and watershed health would in some cases require changes in livestock management, such as deferred or shortened grazing periods, riparian pastures, increased cattle herding, and upland water development. Managing vegetation to meet desired future conditions would positively affect livestock grazing by providing shade in riparian areas within woody communities; however, there would be a reduction in forage availability and forage base. Management actions that result in increased water availability and forage base would indirectly affect livestock through improved livestock distribution and increased weight gain and conception rates. Protecting water quality standards would also affect livestock grazing by successfully managing habitat and water supplies for livestock grazing.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

All grazing allotments are within forested vegetation cover types. Therefore, under all alternatives, forest vegetation treatments within grazing allotments that are designed to restore species composition or to create early or open structure would promote growth of livestock forage in the long term. Vegetation treatment areas would receive short-term deferments from grazing to allow vegetation to recover. Vegetation management also could result in grazing management adjustments in the season and duration of use. Under Alternatives A and B, approximately 50 percent of the area allocated to grazing falls within a WSA where no

4.3.2 Livestock Grazing

vegetation treatment would occur. Under Alternatives C and D, only 1,218 acres are allocated to grazing. Therefore, the potential that forest vegetation treatments would affect grazing allotments under any alternative is low.

Impacts from Vegetation-Riparian and Wetlands Management

Livestock adjustments in riparian areas could be implemented if riparian areas are degraded and do not continue to achieve PFC for riparian and wetland vegetation as directed by the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guideline for Livestock Grazing Management. However, only 37 acres are within grazing allotments within riparian zones under Alternatives A and B, and only 11 acres under Alternatives C and D. Because riparian vegetation within grazing allotments would continue to be in proper functioning condition, there is little potential that riparian and wetlands management would impact grazing.

Impacts from Vegetation-Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, actions to prevent and control invasive and noxious weeds using integrated weed management techniques could affect livestock grazing in the short term by excluding grazing in treatment areas until revegetation has taken place. Livestock grazing would benefit over the long term by increasing forage, as the ecological condition of vegetation in grazing allotments improves following restoration.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Fire suppression under all alternatives could result in tree canopy closure and ingrowth, which would reduce available forage for livestock, while fuels reduction treatments would have the opposite affect. Fire would have both short-term and long-term impacts. In the short term, BLM policy requires that areas burned by wildland fires and planned fuels management project sites receive a minimum of two or more growing seasons of rest from livestock grazing to ensure species regrowth and to ensure that existing vegetation or seeded vegetation become established. In addition, vegetation resource objectives must be reached before grazing is reauthorized. In the long term, fire, depending on its intensity, would enhance growth of forage. Wildland fire use would increase the potential that this would occur. Current management calls for fire suppression and does not allow for wildland fire use. However, the action alternatives identify areas outside the WUI where fire use would be considered. Under Alternative B, 54 percent of the area allocated for grazing (4,004 acres) falls within a fire use area. Under Alternatives C and D, 100 percent of the area allocated for grazing (1,218 acres) is within a fire use area.

Impacts from Visual Resource Managements:

Restrictions in VRM Class I and II areas (2,520 acres under Alternatives A and B, 214 acres under Alternatives C and C) may change the type, design, and location of proposed range improvements, but the restrictions may not necessarily preclude development that would result in negative long-term effects. Range improvements would have to be moved or altered if they occur in the expanded viewsheds. However, mitigation should enable most fence and water improvement actions and events to proceed. Construction activities from other resource programs would also have to be mitigated, which could reduce the extent of forage lost.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Management:

Impacts are described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Under all alternatives, continued implementation of BLM Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management would continue to prevent or minimize environmental effects, and would continue to ensure good site productivity, properly functioning riparian and wetland areas, and

vegetation communities composed of desired species, including native, special status, and desirable nonnative species. Site-specific monitoring and evaluation strategies would continue to monitor success and to evaluate the need to make adjustments in permitted use. Degraded resources would be rehabilitated and reclaimed through adaptive management techniques, such as proper timing and intensity for livestock grazing, monitoring to ensure compliance with permit conditions of approval, and successful site reclamation. Continuing adjustments to grazing operations, when necessary, to comply with the Idaho Standards for Guidelines would continue to positively affect livestock over the long term. Adjustments, if necessary, could include changes in season or duration of use, using riparian pastures and exclosures, modifying forage utilization levels, and livestock conversions.

Current allocations (4,004 acres) for livestock grazing would continue under Alternatives A and B. Under Alternatives C and D, livestock grazing would be permanently removed from all vacant allotments, and the allocated land base would be reduced to 1,218 acres (30 percent of current allocation).

Impacts from Minerals Management

All grazing allotments are open to mining under all alternatives. Mineral development impacts livestock grazing in the short term and the long term by decreasing the amount of grazing acreage available during construction and operation of such facilities. However, such impacts are minimal because most grazing allotments in the field office do not coincide with existing or potential mineral development areas.

Impacts for Transportation and Travel Management

Motorized travel can result in incidental damage to range improvements and general disturbance of livestock. Off-road motorized travel has the greatest potential for impacts. Under current management, 2,165 acres (54 percent) of the area allocated to grazing is open to off-road travel. There are no areas open to off-road travel under the other alternatives. Since there are fewer than 2 miles of designated roads and trails within allotments under any alternative, impacts of such designation would be insignificant.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Depending on the activity, impacts from land and realty management actions on livestock grazing are direct or indirect, short-term or long-term. Direct short-term impacts are caused by constructing ROW for roads or transmission lines and other construction activities that temporarily remove forage and displace livestock until restoration and reclamation are complete. Long-term negative effects include direct loss of forage where roads and facilities are constructed, reduced forage palatability because of dust on vegetation, and disturbance and harassment caused by increased levels of human activity. Management of livestock would be problematic because of increased levels of human activity; fences could be damaged, gates could be left open and noxious and invasive weeds could proliferate. All these impacts result in reduced forage, lowered livestock performance, increased mortality, or increased management costs. Reclamation of short-term disturbances would usually replace lost forage in the long term. Current management has no specific restrictions on where activities allowed under ROW grants, leases, or permits may occur. However, the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) identify ROW exclusion areas, where such authorizations would not be allowed, and ROW avoidance areas, where authorizations would only be granted when there was no practical alternate location. Thus impacts would be concentrated within areas outside of exclusion and avoidance area. Only 10 percent of the area allocated to grazing is outside of exclusion and avoidance areas under Alternative B, while 80 percent and 98 percent of the area is outside under Alternatives C and D, respectively.

Land tenure can also impact livestock grazing, if allotments are exchanged or otherwise adjusted from federal ownership. Conversely, acquired lands could be allocated to livestock grazing. Retention and acquisition areas

are defined by a geographic boundary under current management. Approximately 2,124 acres (53 percent) of the area allocated for grazing falls within this boundary. Thus 47 percent of the area allocated to grazing would be available for exchange or adjustment. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) have both criteria and a geographic boundary derived from the criteria for retention and acquisition. Only Alternative B lists forage for livestock among these criteria, and 3,571 (89 percent) of the allotments fall within the geographic retention boundary. Under Alternative C, only 231 acres (19 percent) of the allotments fall within the geographic boundary, and only 9 acres (>1 percent) do so under Alternative D. Thus the potential for impact is least under Alternative B, and greatest under Alternative D.

4.3.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

The region of influence used to analyze cumulative impacts on livestock grazing includes actions that occur on or adjacent to all allotments located entirely or partially within the planning area. Past actions that have affected livestock grazing include human-caused surface disturbances (mineral development, recreation, and prescribed burning), wildland fires, and historic grazing practices that have contributed to current ecological conditions. Present actions affecting livestock grazing are mainly those that reduce available grazing acreage or the level of forage production in those areas. Key examples include wildland fires, drought conditions, land disposals, OHV use, habitat restoration, and special designations that restrict grazing. Future actions affecting livestock grazing would be similar to present actions including any restriction associated with future species listings under the Endangered Species Act.

The cumulative impacts under each of the alternatives on livestock grazing would be very similar and would parallel the impacts of the alternatives in the general impact analysis. In general, every alternative would reduce forage for livestock in the short-term during treatment activities, other surface disturbing and disruptive activities, human disturbance, and the presence of grazing wildlife. Forage would increase over the long-term, however, as treated vegetation communities reach potential productivity providing a beneficial impact to the industry. Cumulative actions and events that increase human disturbance in grazing areas can also displace, injure or kill animals. Changes to visual resource management cumulatively impact livestock grazing by dictating what type of range improvements are allowed in varying visual resource class areas. Standard mitigation identified in the BLM Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management would be implemented across all alternatives and any other cumulative actions and events, thereby reducing or minimizing cumulative impacts.

4.3.3 Minerals Management

4.3.3.1 Methods of Analysis

Alternative objectives and actions were analyzed to determine if they impact minerals management by limiting or prohibiting development. Indicators of impacts include:

- Special management requirements or standards for development
- Limitations on facilities and activities
- Withdrawals

The following assumptions were applied to the analysis:

- Mineral activities authorized prior to RMP implementation would continue to operate as outlined in existing approved plans;
- Demand for mineral materials over the next 20 years will be driven by the continued urbanization of North Idaho;
- Demand for locatable minerals will be driven by the market price for the specific commodities; and
- The possibility of any activity within the planning area related to leasable commodities (oil and gas, solid minerals, and geothermal resources) would be unlikely.

4.3.3.2 Impacts

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, mineral development would be required to implement BMPs to protect water quality.

Impacts from Vegetation—Riparian and Wetlands Management

Impacts from riparian and wetland vegetation management are related to implementation of INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternative B), and are described under Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management below.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) establish six standards and guidelines related to mineral activities which are incorporated into the surface use stipulations in the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D). These would restrict mineral development to protect fish and other aquatic habitats important to both fish and wildlife. Impacts on mineral development would be implementing BLM inspection, monitoring and reporting requirements that could require further mitigation to protect fish and wildlife resources. Requirements to reclaim areas disturbed during and after mining activities could increase costs if nonstandard technologies were required to facilitate mineral activities within the restricted areas.

Alternative A: To protect fish, INFISH requires mineral development (mining and facility construction and operation) to be located in areas outside of RHCAs. This would make approximately 9,099 acres off limits to development. There would be no NSO or timing limitation (TL) stipulations on mineral leasing or mineral material disposals. Closing roads to traffic part of the year may reduce access for mineral development. Alternative A would have the least number of restrictions on mineral development when compared to the other alternatives.

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Alternatives B, C, and D: Implementing RCAs would reduce areas available for mineral development. Alternatives B, C, and D would include 9,099 acres of NSO stipulations for RCAs. Alternatives B, C, and D would also include 1,567 acres of NSO restrictions for raptor nests, which would limit mineral leasing and mineral material disposals. Alternatives B, C, and D would include 27,852 acres of timing limitations for deer and elk winter range from December 15 to March 31, and 285 acres of timing limitations for bald eagle winter feeding areas from November 15 to February 15. Leasable mineral and mineral material operations would be restricted during these periods.

Timing and spatial restrictions may increase costs associated with exploration and development of mineral resources under Alternative B, C, and D. The pace at which those activities can proceed may slow to accommodate fish and wildlife needs. Surface use stipulations (NSO) would increase costs if nonstandard technologies were required to facilitate mineral activities in restricted areas.

In addition, Alternative C would reduce road densities to one mile of road per square mile or less, outside of urban or rural areas. Road decommissioning and road closures would reduce access for mineral development.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

INFISH and CNFISH impacts are described under Impacts from Fish and Wildlife. Alternative A does not include any other special status species objectives or actions that would impact minerals management.

Alternative B: There would be no NSO restrictions for special status plant species and rare plant communities. Alternatives B, C, and D would include 39,262 acres of CSU restrictions related to special status terrestrial wildlife. These would restrict mineral leasing and mineral material disposals.

Alternatives C and D: The effects from special status species management would be the same as Alternative B except that these alternatives would also reduce road densities in wolverine habitat to one mile of road per square mile of land, which would reduce access for mineral development. In addition, Alternatives C and D would include 15,716 acres of NSO restrictions for special status plant species and rare plant communities. These would restrict mineral leasing and mineral material disposals.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Fire suppression would protect mining operations from wildfire. This would be slightly less under Alternatives C and D. Alternative C emphasizes suppression to protect noncommodity resources, and D balances commodity and noncommodity resources.

Impacts from Cultural Resources Management

Under all alternatives, protection measures for cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP generally include avoidance or other mitigation actions. These protective measures restrict, or in rare cases, prohibit mineral development that would otherwise adversely affect the cultural resources. If the NRHP-eligible cultural resource sites were small, access roads, potential drill pads, pipelines, and other ancillary facilities would be relocated to avoid adverse impacts. Avoidance measures occasionally require installation of facilities in areas that are more difficult to develop or reclaim which would potentially increase impacts on other resources.

Alternative B: Under this alternative, 2,870 acres would be subject to NSO restrictions to protect cultural values. This would restrict mineral leasing and mineral material disposals. Alternative B is the second least restrictive alternative.

Alternative C: Although no surface use restrictions are identified specifically to protect cultural resources, the areas identified under Alternative B would be protected as ACECs, which do have an NSO stipulation. This alternative is the most restrictive in terms of cultural resources management. All land with cultural resources would be proposed for withdrawal from the mining laws, which would preclude locatable minerals development.

Alternative D: Under this alternative, 2,897 acres would be subject to NSO restrictions which would restrict mineral leasing and mineral material disposals. This would be the third least restrictive alternative.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Under all alternatives, any mineral development that occurs within the 21,714 acres of WSAs would have to meet VRM Class I, allowing only very small changes to the characteristic landscape which do not attract attention. Slightly less restrictive stipulations would be applied to mineral leasing and mineral material disposals in areas with a VRM Class II rating, where small changes to the characteristic landscape that do not attract attention would be allowed. Alternatives A and B designate 14,312 acres as VRM II; Alternative C designates 42,273 acres, and D designates 23,551 acres. VRM I and II areas combined equate to 37 percent of BLM lands under Alternatives A and B, 66 percent under C, and 47 percent under D. VRM II areas under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) also have a controlled surface use (CSU) stipulation for leasing.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Objectives and actions identify the BLM land available for mineral development, and whether or not site-specific restrictions are required to protect other resources. BLM land is identified as open/closed to the operation of the mining laws (locatable minerals) and open/closed to the mineral leasing laws (includes both leasable and salable minerals). On BLM land open to the leasing laws, certain areas are subject to surface use stipulations in addition to those on the standard lease/permit form. These additional restrictions include NSO, CSU, and TL stipulations. In many instances, more than one stipulation may apply on the same parcel of land. The percentage of BLM land withdrawn (closed) to the mining laws, closed to the leasing laws, and open to leasing with additional restrictions, by alternative, is displayed in Table 4.3.3-1. Alternative C is the most restrictive of locatable mineral development, and Alternatives C and D have the greatest amount of leasing stipulations.

Table 4.3.3-1 Percent of BLM-Managed Lands in the Planning Area Withdrawn or Stipulated				
	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Acres withdrawn from mining laws	5%	5%	31%	6%
Acres closed to mineral leasing laws	24%	24%	24%	24%
Acres of NSO	0	15%	29%	29%
Acres of CSU	0	69%	69%	68%
Acres of TL	0	29%	29%	29%

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Use of motorized vehicles for casual use mineral exploration would be restricted by travel management designations. There would be no restrictions within areas open to off-road travel, but use of motorized vehicles would be restricted to designated roads in limited areas, and would not be allowed within closed areas. In addition, seasonal and vehicle class restrictions on some designated roads and trails under all alternatives could further constrain exploration. Mineral development within a closed area requires submission of a plan of development for BLM approval.

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Alternative A: Alternative A identifies 63,041 acres as open. This is the only alternative that has an open area, and is thus the least restrictive to mineral exploration. Within the limited area, motorized vehicle travel could occur on 27 miles of roads and trails. About 162 acres would be closed to motorized travel.

Alternative B: This alternative designates 282 miles of roads and trails. Most of the additional designation occurs within the area that is open under Alternative A. The closed area is identical to Alternative A.

Alternative C: This alternative designates only 122 miles of roads and trails open to motorized travel. 311 acres would be closed under this alternative. This is the most restrictive of all alternatives regarding motorized travel.

Alternative D: Alternative D designates 175 miles roads and trail open to motorized travel. 531 acres would be closed under this alternative.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

When BLM exchanges or otherwise adjusts lands in this field office, the mineral rights are included. BLM also includes mineral rights in acquisitions. Thus there is the potential for loss or gain of minerals. Mineral potential is always a consideration for the value of lands during exchanges and acquisitions. Only Alternative B lists mineral potential as a criterion for retention and acquisition. Therefore this alternative has the least potential for loss of minerals from federal ownership.

Lands and realty actions could impact minerals management through restrictions and limitations on ROW and use authorizations, and through direction regarding expired withdrawals.

Alternative A: Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. There is also no direction regarding expired mineral withdrawals.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve 21,636 acres (22 percent of BLM land) of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres (24 percent of BLM land) of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. ROWs and use permits would be concentrated in the remaining 51,548 acres (54 percent of BLM land). At the termination of a withdrawal, the decision to keep or adjust lands would be based on several criteria, including mineral potential, which may open more areas to mineral development. Restrictions from withdrawals on public use of resources would be limited.

Alternative C: This alternative would involve 21,819 acres (23 percent of BLM land) of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres (48 percent of BLM land) of ROW avoidance areas. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres (29 percent of BLM land). In addition, BLM would recommend or retain withdrawals to protect cultural and natural resources from impacts that would otherwise result from authorized uses.

Alternative D: This alternative would involve 22,069 (23 percent of BLM land) acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres (12 percent of BLM land) of ROW avoidance areas. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres (65 percent of BLM land). Guidance for expired withdrawals is the same as Alternative C.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Limitations on mineral development may be imposed in river corridors designated as scenic or recreation, except those areas where valid existing rights exist. Implementation of BLM's interim management plan (IM-8550-1) for WSAs would preclude leasable mineral development and severely limit mineral material development. Locatable mineral activities could occur only in a manner that would not impair the suitability of an area for inclusion in the wilderness system. In addition, ACECs under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) would have an NSO stipulation, and all eligible and suitable wild and scenic river segments would have either an NSO (wild) or a CSU (recreation and scenic). Table 4.3.3-2 shows the acres for these stipulations by alternative.

Table 4.3.3-2 Special Designation Surface Use Stipulations

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
NSO (acres)	0	77	5,599	458
CSU*(acres)	0	0	800	800

* Only the acres associated with wild and scenic river segments are shown. This is a component of CSU-3, which includes protection of other recreation values.

Impacts from Socioeconomic Resources Management

Health and Safety. Under all alternatives, consolidating old mine wastes in repositories for possible future reprocessing could be beneficial to mineral development. Access to minerals would be reduced by several health and safety-related proposals, including proposed withdrawals and site restrictions (requiring mining plans and bonding). Restoring abandoned mine sites to acceptable levels of physical safety and removing hazardous materials from abandoned lands could lead to protective measures to ensure the sites are safe for future activities.

Alternative B: Under this alternative, sites with potentially hazardous materials would be restricted under the mining law with special conditions requiring no disturbance of the hazardous materials, or stipulations to ensure that they were properly handled and bonded under the mining law. Sites with significant known hazardous materials, 51 acres, would be subject to NSO restrictions for mineral leasing and mineral material disposal.

Alternative C: Under this alternative, sites with significant hazardous materials or significant cleaned up and restored sites would be closed under the mining law. Potentially hazardous materials sites would be restricted under the mining law with special conditions requiring no disturbance of the hazardous materials, or stipulations to ensure that they were properly handled and bonded under the mining law.

Alternative D: The effects from public safety management would be the same as Alternative B except that this alternative would include 786 acres of NSO restrictions for public safety. Significant sites would be closed to motor vehicles which would require a plan of operations to ensure that they were properly handled and bonded under the mining law.

4.3.3.3 Cumulative Effects

Alternative A: The impacts of the management activities proposed under Alternative A in the CdA RMP are described in the direct and indirect effects section. Alternative A would involve the greatest area open to mineral leasing and mineral material disposals without restrictions. Alternatives A and B would also withdraw fewer acres from the mining laws, which would exclude locatable mineral activities, than Alternatives C and D. Combined with past, present, and foreseeable future mineral activities on other public lands, state lands,

4.3.3 Minerals Management

tribal lands, and private lands, the cumulative result of this alternative would be to allow more mineral activities than the other alternatives. The specific potential impacts to minerals from other past, present, and future actions in northern Idaho are discussed below.

Northern Idaho has experienced extensive mineral activities over the past 140 years. Mining will continue on public, tribal, state, and private lands, depending on the price of commodities and the expense of complying with environmental regulations. The Silver Valley Mining District historically has been the largest silver district in the world. Because of low commodity prices and high potential environmental liabilities, only two silver-based mines continue to operate at a low level in this district currently. If the price of silver increased, silver mining activities would be expected to increase as well. Because the potential liability environmental cleanup costs are high in this Superfund site area, the price could increase significantly to offset the expense of environmental compliance.

Within the planning area, little future mineral development is expected, with the exception of sand, gravel, crushed rock, and decorative stone, which are likely to increase with increasing demands of the growing population. The population within the planning area has increased by 41 percent and is projected to continue to grow at a rate of 36 percent between 2000 and 2020, resulting in a need for more mineral materials to support infrastructure and building construction.

The amount of BLM-administered land in the CdA FO and CFO has decreased by approximately 29 percent since 1981. Depending on whether mineral rights were retained, the area open to mineral activities may have been reduced. Regardless, the BLM no longer controls the surface management of these areas, potentially resulting in restrictions to mineral activities.

The future rate of road development is unknown on private and State of Idaho lands. Continued development of recreation opportunities could result in increased access, which would also benefit mineral access.

Wildland fires will continue to be suppressed on all land ownership types to reduce the risk to resource values, including minerals. This policy may prevent large wildfires from spreading to areas of mineral activity.

Increased conservation of fish and wildlife could result in more restrictions of mineral activities. As species are delisted under the Endangered Species Act, the conservations measures would continue to be enforced to reduce chances of relisting that could restrict surface disturbances. Water quality concerns may result in restrictions of surface disturbances related to mineral activities. Implementation of the management strategy in ICBEMP could also increase restrictions to mineral activities on public lands. Similarly, increasing restrictions to mineral activities to reduce the spread of noxious weeds may be imposed. Increased enforcement of mineral restrictions related to cultural and archaeological sites could reduce access for mineral activities in the future.

Implementation of the Forest Plans in National Forests in the planning area will likely restrict surface disturbances and road access related to mineral activities. These management plans emphasize resource protection over commodity production.

Alternative B: The impacts of the management activities proposed under Alternative B are described in the direct and indirect effects section. Alternative B would include fewer restrictions on mineral activities than Alternatives C or D. Alternatives A and B would also withdraw fewer acres from the mining laws, which would exclude locatable mineral activities, than Alternatives C and D. Combined with past, present, and

foreseeable future mineral activities on other public lands, state lands, tribal lands, and private lands, the cumulative result of this alternative would be to allow more unrestricted mineral activities than Alternatives C or D. The specific potential impacts to minerals from other past, present, and future actions in northern Idaho are discussed under Alternative A.

Alternative C: The impacts of the management activities proposed under Alternative C are described in the direct and indirect effects section. Alternative C would include the most restrictions on mineral activities. Alternative C would also withdraw the most acres from mining laws, which would exclude locatable mineral activities. Combined with past, present, and foreseeable future mineral activities on other public lands, state lands, tribal lands, and private lands, the cumulative result of this alternative would be to allow the least unrestricted mineral activities. The specific potential impacts to minerals from other past, present, and future actions in northern Idaho are discussed under Alternative A.

Alternative D: The impacts of the management activities proposed under Alternative D are described in the direct and indirect effects section. Alternative D would include the more restrictions on mineral activities than Alternatives A or B. Alternative D would also withdraw more acres from mining laws than Alternative A or B, which would exclude locatable mineral activities. Combined with past, present, and foreseeable future mineral activities on other public lands, state lands, tribal lands, and private lands, the cumulative result of this alternative would be to allow less unrestricted mineral activities than Alternatives A or B. The specific potential impacts to minerals from other past, present, and future actions in northern Idaho are discussed under Alternative A.

4.3.4 Recreation

4.3.4.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions could result in impacts on recreation resources if any management actions were to directly or indirectly change the quantity and availability of recreational opportunities. Indicators that were used to quantitatively and qualitatively assess management changes that could affect recreation management include the following:

- Number of developed recreational opportunities
- Number of dispersed recreational opportunities
- Setting attributes managed

The analysis is based on the following assumptions:

- The demand for recreational use would continue to increase over the life of the plan;
- Recreational visits are estimated to continue increasing at an annual rate of one to four percent;
- The incidence of resource damage and conflicts among recreationists involved in mechanized, motorized, and nonmotorized activities would increase with increasing use of public lands.

4.3.4.2 Impacts

Impacts from Air Quality, Soils, and Water Quality Management

Under all alternatives, management direction for these resources complements recreation management objectives, ensuring setting attributes are maintained.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Under all alternatives, treatments for the restoration of forested vegetation to historic condition could indirectly affect recreation by improving conditions for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing over the long-term. A long-term impact would result from vegetation removal which would change the visual quality of the landscape. There could also be short-term impacts on recreation users when facilities, trails, and routes are closed during treatments. These closures would affect recreation opportunities by temporarily limiting access and altering recreation use patterns. Forest vegetation treatments would also have short-term impacts on recreation from noise and truck traffic on roads.

The potential for impacts would correspond with the number of acres treated under each alternative. Alternative A calls for treatment of 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C calls for a 83 percent reduction, while D calls for a 17 percent increase.

Impacts from Vegetation—Riparian and Wetlands Management

Alternatives primarily vary by the objective for achieving PFC of riparian and wetland vegetation. Achieving this goal would enhance recreational experiences for most users, as it could lead to enhanced fisheries conditions, enhanced aesthetic qualities, and enhanced wildlife habitat. Enhanced fishing opportunities and increased opportunities for wildlife viewing would follow. Alternatives A, C, and D set an objective of 75 percent of riparian and wetland vegetation achieving PFC, while Alternative B sets an objective of only 50 percent. Thus Alternative B would have less impact than the other alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation—Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

Under all alternatives, measures for the prevention and control of invasive species and noxious weeds, including a focus on ground-disturbing actions and events, permitted activities, and educating the public, would help to preserve native vegetation, which may be more desirable to recreationists. Under Alternative C, some recreation areas would need to have site improvements to provide wash stations.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Under all alternatives, protecting and improving wildlife and fish habitat would continue to provide opportunities for recreational uses and such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Established criteria to protect wildlife and fish habitat would create short-term impacts on recreation users as described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternative B) promote restoration of aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats, including maintaining and restoring watersheds. A site-specific analysis would be necessary before a new recreation facility (including trails and dispersed sites) could be built within an RHCA/RCA. This additional analysis may delay the development of small recreation facilities. In addition, recreation facilities may need to be relocated if the facility is within an RHCA/RCA and cannot meet riparian management objectives.

Alternative A: Protecting deer habitat by buffering new roads and closing all roads to public vehicular access in heavy use, fawning, rut, and lick areas would restrict locations of new recreation facilities and roads. These actions would also restrict access to recreation opportunities via motorized roads during the peak recreation use seasons (spring, summer, and fall) within sensitive deer habitat. The magnitude of this action would affect different user groups in different ways. For example, hikers and others engaged in nonmotorized recreation would directly and indirectly benefit over the short and long terms, but such actions would likely affect motorized vehicle users because of the restrictions.

Maintaining a buffer around active raptor nests would place restrictions on the location of new recreation facilities and may close recreation facilities close to occupied nests. However, preserving this resource would enhance the recreation experience and would provide more opportunity for visitors to view raptors.

Alternative B: There would be no actions that address road closures or buffers for new construction to specifically protect deer habitat. Impacts on recreational use would therefore depend on recreation type, level of use, and season. Conflicts could arise, for example, among different recreation use groups. The discussion of impacts on Transportation and Travel Management provides additional discussion.

Raptor protection is similar to Alternative A, except the restrictive buffer is half the size of the buffers in Alternatives A and C. Human activity is also less restricted, with a 50-yard buffer around occupied nests outside of urban and rural areas.

Alternative C: There are no actions that address road closures or buffers for new construction to specifically protect deer habitat. Alternative C emphasizes minimal management and minimal human interaction to achieve better habitat conditions over the long term. As under Alternative B, impacts on recreational use would, therefore, depend on recreation type, level of use, and season. Similar to Alternative B, conflicts could arise among different recreation use groups. Refer to the discussion of impacts on Transportation for additional discussion.

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For raptor protection, the impacts are similar to Alternatives A and B, except that buffers from the raptor nests would be more restrictive of human activities than under either Alternatives A or B.

Alternative D: General impacts would be similar to Alternative B. Impacts from the protection of active raptor nests is similar to Alternative A, but the restrictive buffer for human activity is larger and more restrictive outside of the urban and rural areas than inside these areas.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, protecting special status fish, wildlife, and plants could result in short- and long-term impacts on recreation users similar to those described under Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management. Impacts from implementing INFISH and CNFISH are specifically addressed in that section. Management for the federally protected (as listed under the ESA) bald eagle, Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, woodland caribou, yellow-billed cuckoo, Spalding's catchfly, and water howellia would take precedence over recreation when conflicts between recreational use and habitat protection occur. Grizzly bear conservation measures would prohibit public recreation access improvements under all alternatives, and would put limits on motorized recreation.

Alternative A: Special status species management would affect recreation by increasing restrictions on certain activities. Taking corrective actions, such as initiating temporary emergency closures or amending route designations through the travel management plan, would displace recreational activities in areas identified for species or habitat protection. As a result, wildlife and habitat would improve, thereby improving such recreational experiences as wildlife viewing. Measures for protecting special status species would seasonally and possibly permanently preclude snowmobile and OHV use in certain areas, resulting in short-term and possibly long-term impacts on snowmobile/OHV users. Areas with highly sensitive species could require a plan amendment to close the area; however, protection could also be addressed by adjusting route designation in the travel management plan, while still leaving the area limited to motorized and mechanized travel.

Alternative B: The recommended withdrawal of public lands within 300 feet of streambeds from mineral leasing and location, to protect white sturgeon and bull trout habitat, could indirectly enhance the water- and land-based recreation experience along streams, because retention of a protective buffer would retain a desirable setting for human recreational activity. Riparian buffers would cover approximately 12,863 acres under this and all alternatives.

Adopting resource conservation measures for the bald eagle would help ensure species preservation and subsequent wildlife viewing opportunities. Conversely, viewing opportunities would be restricted at nest and roost sites to ensure security for the birds. BLM-authorized actions within 0.25 mile from the shoreline of feeding waters between November 15 and February 15 would be implemented to avoid adversely affecting feeding bald eagles. All recreation activities, including under special recreation use permits, would be suspended in that area during that time, if the activity had been determined to adversely affect bald eagles.

BLM-authorized actions within 0.25 mile of nest sites from March 1 to July 20 would be implemented to avoid adversely affecting nesting bald eagles. All recreation activities, including special recreation use permits, would be suspended in that area during that time, if the activity had been determined to adversely affect bald eagles.

Picnicking, camping, blasting, firearm use, timber harvest, and low level aircraft operations would not be allowed within 0.25 mile of nests and roosts during periods of eagle use. This would limit recreation activities

within the said time and area. The opportunity to view bald eagles would increase, due to the protective measures.

Location of new recreation facilities would be limited because permanent structures that would be occupied during periods of eagle use would not be constructed near nesting or winter use areas. In addition, buildings would not be constructed closer than 0.25 mile from the shoreline of feeding waters.

Locating recreation facilities, such as day-use areas and trails, may change the areas where special recreation use activities would be limited and where humans would need to be guided away from important feeding perches prevented in nesting and roosting areas.

Providing eagle viewing and interpretive areas would provide a unique beneficial experience for the public if risks associated with human access and disturbance opportunities can be controlled and minimized. This action would increase the interpretative recreational opportunities offered by the FO.

Within lynx areas there would be no new designated snowplay areas or snow compaction activities (groomed trails) under Alternative B. Opportunities to expand snowmobiling would be limited to 37,612 acres, as opposed to 0 acres under Alternative A, 49,100 acres under Alternative C, and 53,236 acres under Alternative D.

Stipulations added to special use permits could be required to mitigate impacts on wolves. Specific mitigation would be localized and implemented on a case-by-case basis.

All current and future recreational use would be analyzed for compatibility with grizzly bear spatial and habitat requirements.

Alternative C: Impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B except that this alternative would also reduce road densities in wolverine habitat to one mile of road per square mile of land, which could lead to road closures in these sensitive areas. The effects of this would include fewer roads available for OHV users, and more restored or intact areas available to hikers or cross-country skiers.

Alternative D: New recreation facilities and uses (including dispersed recreation) and special use permits should not interfere with the special status species protection programs and activities. This may limit the development and/or expansion of recreation facilities and activities. The result of these programs should show an increase in the species population, which may enhance wildlife viewing opportunities. In general, the impacts would be similar to Alternative B.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Under all alternatives, use of public lands for recreation could be affected where the need for fire and nonfire treatments, mitigation strategies, hazard reduction plan, and wildland fire prevention is necessary. These fire management activities would likely result in short-term impacts on recreation users and areas in the form of temporary closures, presence of large equipment, or temporary aesthetic effects from prescribed burns. Once areas were reopened, new routes established through fire management activities could create access to additional recreational opportunities unless BLM closed or rehabilitated roads or access points open for fire activities. Long-term impacts on recreation could occur in areas where fires are not suppressed and incur burnouts. Mosaic burn patterns that are historically prevalent in northern Idaho could also add to the natural setting of a recreation experience and could improve forage for and viewing of wildlife. Lake and streamside camping areas are often not burned and would not likely be impacted.

4.3.4 Recreation

The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) allow for consideration of fire use outside of the WUI. This could affect roaded natural and semiprimitive areas. Impacts could include a change in the recreation setting and experience due to smoke, a burned landscape, or elimination of a dispersed recreation site.

Impacts from Cultural and Paleontological Resources Management

Under all alternatives, measures for cultural and paleontological resources would protect these resources of interest to the recreating public. These measures also could lead to restricting the development of recreational facilities and opportunities. Management actions that develop interpretive signage, informative maps, and cultural resource plans would enhance recreational experiences through education. Under Alternative A, motorized travel (including snowmobiles) is limited to designated roads on 2,870 acres to protect cultural values, thus limiting motorized recreation opportunities. However, under the other alternatives, motorized travel (except snowmobiles) is limited to designated roads and trails in all areas that are not closed. For snowmobiles, the 2,870 acres of limited area from Alternative A carry forward into Alternatives B and D. No off-road snowmobile use is allowed under Alternative C, but this restriction is not directly related to cultural resources.

Impacts from Visual Resources

No impacts on recreation resources would occur under any alternatives because the visual resource management (VRM) classes are in agreement with the recreation opportunities and objectives. Visual resource management is a byproduct management strategy of the other resource management objectives in the area.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Impacts are the same as under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Mineral Management

Mineral development could create both long-term and short-term impacts on recreational resources by changing the natural setting to a more developed one during exploration and development activities. The impact would depend on the location of any exploratory and development activities. The potential for impacts would be related to the area available for exploration and development. Currently (Alternatives A and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres, while Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more impacts on recreation than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Each alternative has a specific recreation market emphasis. Alternatives differ in the number and acres of SRMAs managed, and the type of recreation emphasis within each SRMA. Although the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes do not change, the alternatives differ in how much of the ROS classes are more intensively managed in an SRMA or custodially managed in the ERMA. Explicit recreation management actions to achieve specific defined opportunities or benefits would not occur in the ERMA and recreation experiences would be variable and unpredictable. As a result of these differences, developed and dispersed recreation opportunities change with each alternative.

Management would strive to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities, while also maintaining the rural and roaded-natural settings that currently occur. Impacts from providing this type of recreational setting would increase human interaction at developed sites. Conversely, management would accommodate visitors who desire a recreational experience outside developed sites and where visitor contact is less.

Under all alternatives, recreation management actions would continue to support an array of recreational opportunities in the planning area, including hunting, fishing, horseback riding, OHV use, boating, and camping. Continuing to authorize special recreation permits for recreational uses of public lands for commercial hunting and fishing, and organized events would add to the overall range of recreational opportunities available in the planning area. Special use authorizations that would be granted based on demonstrated public need or benefit would ensure that recreational use is compatible and consistent with other resource uses. Limiting special use authorizations for commercial, competitive and organized group activities would concentrate recreational uses to smaller areas, and decrease the potential for a greater number of these type activities to spill over into surrounding areas where a more dispersed and primitive recreational experience is desired.

Also under all alternatives, providing controls and limits at developed recreation sites would protect visitors and indirectly protect other resources (i.e., vegetation, wildlife habitat, water quality). This would be accomplished by limiting motorized travel to designated developed roads, closing Blackwell Canals to motorized boats (except for the portion developed for boat launching), closing developed day-use areas to overnight camping, and continuing to place special restrictions on Blackwell Island, Mica Bay Boater Park, and Blue Creek Bay.

Under all alternatives, continuing to authorize special recreation permits for recreational uses of public lands in the SRMAs for commercial outfitting and guiding, and for organized events, would add to the overall range of recreational opportunities available in the planning area. As the recreation field expands and new recreation activities are created, additional special recreation use permits would be allowed, on a case-by-case basis.

The table below shows the percentages of BLM land by ROS category that is within an SRMA, broken down by ROS category across the alternatives.

Table 4.3.4-1 Percent of Land by ROS Category within SRMAs

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Rural	12%	70%	8%	66%
Roaded Natural	6%	70%	38%	71%
Semiprimitive	0%	62%	93%	93%
Total BLM Land – All Categories	3%	66%	63%	82%

Alternative A: Under Alternative A, management would continue to identify and classify units of public land as recreation management areas to provide prescribed outdoor recreation opportunities. The CdA FO would continue to manage Coeur d'Alene Lake, Lower Coeur d'Alene River, and Gamlin Lake SRMAs. This alternative would manage recreation on the least amount of acreage (3 percent) of any alternative, leaving the rest vulnerable to changing toward a more developed ROS class. Only a small portion of the rural and roaded natural areas are within the SRMAs. Most of the BLM land (97 percent) and all of the semiprimitive acres fall within the ERMA.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B, management would emphasize community-based recreation-tourism. BLM would manage six SRMAs, comprising 66 percent of BLM lands. Under alternative B, 70 percent of the rural and roaded-natural acres would be managed while 62 percent of the semiprimitive acres would be managed. There would also be a greater emphasis on providing for facility dependent recreation activity opportunities.

4.3.4 Recreation

Custodial management actions would occur in the ERMA, as described for Alternative A, but the ERMA would comprise only 34 percent of BLM lands. Most of the land in the ERMA would be in semiprimitive and roaded natural settings.

Alternative C: Under Alternative C, management emphasizes recreation opportunities for undeveloped/dispersed recreation-tourism markets and there is a greater emphasis on providing resource dependent recreation activity opportunities. Under this alternative, 8 percent of the rural, 38 percent of the roaded-natural and 93 percent of the semiprimitive would be managed within an SRMA. The ERMA would make up approximately 37 percent, slightly more than in Alternative B. This alternative would include most of the roaded natural and rural acres in the ERMA.

Alternative D: Under this alternative the BLM would identify recreation management areas and emphasize recreation opportunities toward both undeveloped/dispersed recreation-tourism markets and community recreation-tourism markets. BLM would manage seven SRMAs that total about 82 percent of BLM lands. This is the highest under any alternative. This strategy would manage the most acres toward recreation-related goals and objectives and provide the most recreation opportunities for users. Custodial management would still occur in the ERMA, which would primarily be roaded-natural.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Development of wind energy could permanently reduce the area currently available for recreational use, and would have long term impacts on visual quality and recreational experience due to wind turbines, power lines, and roads. Limitations on wind development would be related to ROW and use authorizations and are described under Impacts from Lands and Realty. Impacts from biomass utilization are the same as those described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Impacts on motorized and nonmotorized recreation occur when access changes. When motorized access is reduced or limited, this can increase opportunities for nonmotorized travel without conflicting experiences. Also, when certain types of nonmotorized travel are restricted, this can increase opportunities for other types of nonmotorized travel without conflicting experiences.

Alternative A: This alternative would continue to allow off-road motorized vehicle use, except where restrictions have been established to address specific resource management problems or conflicts. Motorized travel designations are as follows:

- Open designation: 63,041 acres;
- Limited designation: 33,567 acres; and
- Closed designation: 162 acres.

Alternative A would continue to allow cross-country snowmobile travel in areas designated as open, which could cause conflicts with other users, including cross-country skiers. Approximately 66,000 acres of area would be available for cross-country snowmobile use, although not all acres are accessible. About 30,600 acres are closed to cross-country snowmobile use. Travel restrictions on mechanized nonmotorized forms of travel would also continue, causing an impact on mountain bikers who may prefer to ride in this area.

This alternative would continue to prohibit equestrian use at the following developed recreation sites:

- Mineral Ridge Trail (3.3 miles);

- Beauty Bay Trail (.4 miles);
- Blackwell Island Boardwalk (.5 mile); and
- Gamlin Lake Trail (4.3 miles).

Alternative B: Motorized travel designations are as follows:

- Open designation: 0 acres;
- Limited designation: 96,608 acres, and
- Closed designation: 162 acres.

The open designation would be eliminated, which would echo the alternative's management emphasis. This action would allow the BLM to actively manage about 63,200 more acres than under Alternative A, which is about 282 miles of roads and trails.

The roads and trails would limit motorized travel by season and by vehicle class type. These limitations would alter some recreation users' experiences by limiting motorized opportunities, but other recreation users may find the nonmotorized routes more enjoyable. The closed area would remain the same.

About 64,157 acres would be available for cross-country snowmobile use during the winter (not all acres are accessible). The closed areas would encompass about 33,400 acres, which include, but are not limited to, WSAs, Rochat Divide roadless area, Coeur d'Alene Lake and Gamlin Lake SRMAs, and developed recreation or administrative sites. About 3,000 acres, a slight decrease from Alternative A, would change from open designation for cross-country snowmobile use (as in Alternative A) to closed designation, though some of these areas may not be accessible. Under this alternative the BLM would apply cross-country travel restrictions to mechanized nonmotorized forms of travel the same as for snowmobiles. This action also would slightly decrease the area in which users could travel cross-country on mechanized nonmotorized vehicles.

Equestrian use would be limited, the same as Alternative A for Mineral Ridge Trail and Beauty Bay Trail, but Alternative B would also prohibit mountain biking in these areas. The mileage prohibiting equestrian use and mountain biking would be limited to 0.25 mile, less than under Alternative A.

Equestrian use and mountain biking would be allowed at Gamlin Lake Trail.

Alternative C: Motorized travel designations are as follows:

- Open designation: 0 acres;
- Limited designation: 96,459 acres; and
- Closed designation: 311 acres.

The open designation would be eliminated, as in Alternative B. This alternative would allow the BLM to actively manage about 63,000 more acres in the limited designation, which contains 122 miles of roads and trails. Areas closed to motorized travel would increase by 149 acres.

No cross-country snowmobile use would be allowed. The impact of this action would be to allow snowmobile use only on designated snowmobile routes. Banning cross-country snowmobile use and use of mechanized nonmotorized forms of travel would benefit those who desire solitude or nonmechanized

4.3.4 Recreation

recreation, such as for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking, but it would greatly reduce the amount of area available for snowmobilers and mountain bikers.

Equestrian uses would be restricted the same as in Alternative A, but Alternative C would also prohibit mountain biking along Mineral Ridge Trail, Beauty Bay Trail, and 0.25 mile of Blackwell Island Boardwalk. This would limit the amount of trail available to equestrian and mountain bike users under this alternative.

Alternative D: Motorized travel designations are as follows:

- Open designation: 0 acres;
- Limited designation: 96,139 acres; and
- Closed designation: 631 acres.

The open designation would be eliminated, which would echo the alternative's management emphasis. This action would allow the BLM to actively manage all of the public lands. Impacts of this alternative on recreation are similar to Alternative B, although this alternative would provide slightly less limited areas and cross-country snowmobile areas.

Impacts from Lands and Realty

Lands identified for adjustment could lead to a long-term impact on recreational users by decreasing or increasing the area of public lands available for recreation, or lands that provide access for recreation. Under Alternative A, only 325 acres of 3,249 within SRMAs are within the boundary of the area identified for retention and acquisition. This makes the majority of managed acres available for exchange, or other adjustment. All of the other alternatives include all of the SRMAs within the retention and acquisition boundary. Alternatives B and D specifically identify SRMAs as a retention and acquisition criteria. Alternative C identifies areas for primitive recreation as a criterion.

Activities associated with ROW and use authorizations (e.g., road construction and commercial use, development of facilities, etc.) can also impact recreation by limiting access, or interfering with recreational experiences. Under current management, there are no areas that would be categorically excluded or avoided for such authorizations, so impacts could potentially occur anywhere. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) identify exclusion areas where authorizations would not be allowed, and avoidance areas where authorizations would be granted only if there was no other practical location. Thus, most impacts under the action alternatives would occur in areas outside of the exclusion and avoidance areas: 51,548 acres for Alternative B, 28,678 acres for Alternative C, and 63,389 acres for Alternative D.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Areas with special designations would be managed in a way that would restrict certain recreation activities, if such activities could jeopardize the resource values special to the area. The areas of special designation also could enhance the recreation program to provide and protect unique recreation opportunities.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. There would be opportunities for only primitive recreation in these areas. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where recreational activities are already very limited. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not affect recreation, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protection would be provided for five stream segments, totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands

within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River which is eligible for recreation designation. However, BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer) along this segment, and very limited opportunities for recreation. Eligible streams also include a segment of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater (1.1 miles) which is eligible for recreation designation. Of the remaining protected segments, all but 0.3 miles fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which is already protected. Thus, protection of eligible segments have little impact on recreation, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: ACECs are the same as under Alternative A. However, all stream segments that are eligible WSR were found nonsuitable under this alternative, and would receive no special protection.

When released by Congress from further study as a WSA, the Selkirk Crest area in would fall within the ERMA.

If it is released by Congress from further study as a WSA, the Crystal Lake area would fall within the semiprimitive motorized ROS part of Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA.

If released by Congress from further study as a WSA, the Grandmother Mountain area would fall within the ERMA. The Lund Creek area would remain an RNA/ACEC. This action would protect valuable recreation and natural resource values that enhance the recreation setting in the Grandmother Mountain area.

The National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations for the Mineral Ridge and the Marble Creek trail system would continue, and additional routes would be nominated for designation:

- Beauty Bay Trail, 0.4 mile;
- Blackwell Island Boardwalk, 0.25 mile; and
- Gamlin Lake Trails, 4.3 miles.

This action would increase the mileage of trails in the NRT system and would provide improved opportunities for nonmotorized recreation.

Under this alternative the Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas in Alternative A would continue to be recognized; Blackwell Island and Blue Creek Bay would be added as viewing areas, increasing the recreation opportunities for wildlife viewing.

This alternative would recognize the Rochat Divide Road (including the Phillips Draw Road and spur to the summit of St. Joe Baldy) as a back country byway. Management of back country byways would be similar to current management.

Alternative C: This alternative would designate 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, because 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, there would be little impact on recreation unless the WSAs were release by Congress (see discussion below). Of the remaining acres, 119 would be within ACECs designated to protect the public from hazardous materials (mine tailings). This would enhance recreational experiences by increasing safety. Also, all five eligible WSR segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

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If released by Congress from further study as a WSA, the Crystal Lake area would become part of the Rochat Divide ACEC, which would further protect special values that enhance the semiprimitive recreation setting.

If released by Congress from further study as a WSA, managing the Grandmother Mountain area in the semiprimitive motorized Widow Mountain SRMA would allow vehicles to use designated routes. This area would be managed as the Lund Creek RNA/ACEC and Little North Fork Clearwater ACEC. This alternative also finds the Little North Fork Clearwater River and tributaries suitable for WSR designations. Management of these river segments would protect the recreational setting.

The NRT impacts would be the same as Alternative B, except an additional 3.2 miles of the Crystal Lake Trails would be added to the NRT system.

The back country byways would impact recreation similarly as in Alternative B, except this alternative would also manage two back country byways and would increase recreational opportunities, relative to Alternatives A and B.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. The primary impact on recreation would be a slight enhancement of primitive recreation that might occur in the vicinity of one of the ACECs. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

When released by Congress from further study the BLM would manage the WSAs (21,637 acres) for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative D. This would allow activities, such as hiking and nonmotorized travel, to take place that could harm the resources that were, in part, originally responsible for designating the areas as WSAs; however, fewer activities would be allowed under Alternative D than Alternative B.

Impacts involving Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas would be the same as Alternative B.

Impacts involving National Recreation Trails would be the same as Alternative C.

Impacts involving back country byways would be the same as Alternative C; however, the spur to the summit of St. Joe Baldy would not be recognized as a back country byway.

Impacts from Socioeconomic Resources Management

Under all alternatives, recreation resources would be improved by site cleanups, rock dump stabilization, and site restrictions, which would occur under all alternatives. Restoring areas and improving site conditions would enhance the recreation setting and may attract recreation uses in formerly undesirable areas. Conversely, recreation users could be exposed to hazardous waste sites or abandoned mine sites that either remain unidentified or have not been remediated.

4.3.4.3 Cumulative Effects

Generally, all recreation will continue to increase as the area population increases and the availability of desirable recreational opportunities increases. The population of Idaho has risen 28.5 percent in the last decade; Populations in each of the five counties within the planning area are also projected to increase from approximately 20 percent (Benewah County) to approximately 39 percent (Bonner, Boundary, and Kootenai Counties). Overall, the 36 percent population growth over the next 20 years in the planning area is expected

to exceed the projected 35 percent statewide growth (US EPA 2004a). This growth is likely to increase demand for dispersed and developed recreation sites.

Potential impacts to recreation would result primarily from surface disturbance actions. These impacts would primarily result from minerals development (most likely salable minerals and locatable minerals) that would detract from certain types of recreational experiences through increased roads, industrial traffic, noise, and scenery degradation associated with industrial development. Short-term impacts would result from vegetation treatment by creating temporary closures and displacing recreational users from developed areas. While much of the increased access would be desirable to groups of recreationists seeking motorized or mechanized options, opportunities for those seeking primitive and solitary experiences would be minimized. Wildfire and vegetation treatment is another ongoing surface disturbing activity, but could improve forest, riparian, wetland, and nonforested vegetation conditions, aesthetics and wildlife habitat in the long-term resulting in recreational benefits.

Cumulative impacts to recreation resources would also be caused by activity and location restrictions to protect fish, wildlife and water quality, which could limit the areas in which recreation opportunities are allowed to expand. Short-term impacts would be caused by seasonal closures, but long-term impacts would result when closures changed the type of recreation opportunities available to the public. Development and restrictions could reduce recreational opportunities for some users by limiting certain types of recreational activities; however, the same restrictions, such as road closures, could also enhance the experience of other recreationists seeking nonmotorized opportunities in a natural setting.

Under Alternatives B and D, cumulative impacts on recreation would increase compared to Alternatives A and C because of increased development activities and fewer restrictions placed on sensitive resources. Cumulative impacts on recreation would also increase under Alternative B and D in regard to public health and safety concerns as a result of additional roads and associated conflicts between users. Indirect cumulative impacts to recreation would potentially occur because of reduction in or substantial impacts to, wildlife habitat creating a long-term reduction in recreation opportunities. Under Alternative C, impacts on recreation would be less than those of Alternatives A, B, or D because of less development activities, increased land resource protections, and decreases in oil and gas development. Most of the identified impacts under Alternative C would benefit recreation management and primitive types of recreation.

4.3.5 Renewable Energy

4.3.5.1 Methods of Analysis

Impacts on the development of geothermal energy would be the same as those discussed in section 4.3.3. Management actions could result in impacts on renewable energy management if any management actions were to directly or indirectly change the quantity and availability of renewable resources such as biomass or were to place restrictions on construction of facilities. Indicators that are used to quantitatively and qualitatively assess management changes that could affect renewable energy management include the following:

- Acres of land open to biomass or wind energy development
- Availability of biomass fuel from logging activities
- Areas where biomass or wind energy development would have restrictions

4.3.5.2 Impacts

Impacts from Air Quality, Soils, and Water Quality Management

Under all alternatives, BMPs and road construction guidelines would have to be followed to minimize effects on air quality, soils, and water quality. This could increase costs, or make some areas offlimits to wind energy development and biomass removal.

Impacts from Vegetation-Forests and Woodlands Management

Under all alternatives, vegetation and fuels reduction treatments would generate logging byproducts that could be used as biomass fuel. The quantity would correspond with the number of acres treated. Alternative A calls for treatment of 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C calls for a 83 percent reduction, while D calls for a 17 percent increase. There would be no impact on the development of wind energy.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species Management

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) would only allow placement of biomass or wind energy facilities or extraction of biomass fuels in 12,869 acres of riparian buffer areas if project specific assessment revealed that there would be no adverse effect on listed species and if placement of the facility could be shown to have no effect on the RHCAs/RCAs. Fuel wood and biomass would only be removed from buffers if catastrophic conditions arose, including extensive blowdown, catastrophic fire, or extensive loss to insects.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Neither biomass operations nor wind energy development would be allowed within VRM I areas (WSAs), under any alternative. Within VRM II areas, only small changes to the characteristic landscape that do not attract attention would be allowed. This would limit vegetation removal for biomass, and placement of wind turbines. It would also place extra restrictions on road and power line placement and construction. Potential for impacts would correspond with the number of acres designated VRM II. Alternatives A and B designate 14,312 acres. Alternative C designates 42,273, and Alternative D designates 23,551.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Lands and realty management actions involve designating ROW exclusion areas that would be closed to possible development by biomass or wind energy facilities, and ROW avoidance areas where facilities would

only be allowed if no other practical location could be found. The amount of designated ROW exclusion areas under any alternative would be directly related to the potential for this impact to occur. Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations. Under Alternative B, 46 percent of BLM lands are within exclusion or avoidance areas. Under Alternative C, 71 percent of BLM land is within these areas, and 35 percent under Alternative D.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Development of renewable energy facilities would either not be allowed, or special restrictions would apply in areas with special designations including ACECS, RNAs, WSAs, and WSRs.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Facilities and operations for renewable energy would not be allowed within these areas. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where facilities and operations are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not have an impact, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments totaling 28 miles, which are eligible for WSR designation, would limit facilities and operations within 1/4 mile of the eligible segments. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer). Of the remaining protected segments, all but about 1.5 miles (300 acres of buffer) fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, so there would be no added restrictions, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would restrict facilities and operations as described for Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible WSR segments as unsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention.

Alternative C: This alternative would designate 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres where facilities and operations would be restricted. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional impact would truly occur, unless the WSAs were released by Congress. Also, all five eligible WSR segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in impacts on biomass and wind energy development. WSR segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

4.3.5.3 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects of biomass would be similar to those discussed in Section 4.3.1.3 for Forestry and Woodland Products. Cumulative effects of geothermal energy would be similar to those discussed under Minerals in Section 4.3.3.3. Cumulative effects of wind energy would be similar to those discussed in Section 4.3.7.3 under Lands and Realty.

4.3.6 Transportation and Travel Management

4.3.6.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions could result in impacts on transportation and travel management if any management actions were to directly or indirectly change the availability of opportunities. Acres of proposed management activities, including withdrawals, timing constraints and surface disturbances, are evaluated and compared for each alternative. Indicators for transportation and travel management include:

- Acres of travel designation (open, limited, closed) indicate change in transportation and travel management.
- Changes in miles of developed roads (either increases or decreases),
- Changes in types of use (motorized versus nonmotorized); and
- Possibility of temporary closures.

4.3.6.2 Impacts

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives, managing soil-disturbing activities to protect landslide-prone areas and to minimize potential for mass wasting could force the BLM to place certain trails offlimits to equestrians and motorized vehicle users during part or all of the year. This would result in a minor impact on travel and transportation access.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, protecting and maintaining watersheds could require periodic or permanent road closures in cases where roads contribute to sedimentation of streams, mass wasting, or other forms of erosion. This action could remove or limit users' ability to travel within areas of concern.

Impacts from Vegetation—Forest and Woodlands Management

Future vegetation treatments could affect transportation by providing more roads that could be considered for designation into the travel management system, and would provide maintenance for existing designated roads during the time treatments are being implemented. Temporary closures of roads could be required for safety reasons during an active forest vegetation treatment project. Potential for and magnitude of these impacts would correspond with the number of acres treated. Alternative A calls for treatment of 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C calls for a 83 percent reduction, while D calls for a 17 percent increase.

Impacts from Vegetation—Riparian and Wetlands Management

Under all alternatives, protection and enhancement of riparian and wetland vegetation could result in temporary or permanent closure of roads and trails for rehabilitation, or relocation outside of the riparian area. Alternatives A, C, and D call for achieving 75 percent PFC of riparian and wetland areas. Alternative B calls for achieving only 50 percent PFC. Thus there could be slightly less potential for impacts under B than under other alternatives. See Impacts from Fish and Wildlife for a description of impacts from implementing INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternative B).

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

Alternative A would institute INFISH, and Alternatives B, C, and D would institute CNFISH as guides to promote restoration of aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats, including maintaining and restoring watersheds. INFISH and CNFISH require that management activities not degrade existing habitat in conservation subwatersheds or retard attainment of trends toward improving aquatic habitats in restoration subwatersheds. Impacts on these resources would be analyzed with each expansion or improvement activity to the transportation system. A watershed analysis would be completed before new roads could be built within an RHCA/RCA. This additional analysis may prolong the development of smallscale improvements to the transportation system. Any roads that are causing impacts on riparian habitat would have to be repaired, relocated, or closed.

All alternatives also require new roads and improved roads that have stream crossings to be built to standards that would endure a ten-year flood. The short-term impacts of this requirement on transportation would include temporary closure of sections of the travel network, possibly in heavily traveled areas. Protecting the users of the transportation network from a crossing failure would be a long-term effect.

Alternative A: Roads in crucial and important winter range for deer and elk would continue to be closed to public vehicular access for four months each year. New roads would continue to be buffered and all roads except main haul roads in heavy use, fawning, rut, and lick areas would be closed to public vehicular access for eight months each year. These actions would restrict locations of new roads to avoid sensitive deer habitat and restrict the travel network connectivity and access during the main visitor use period (spring, summer, and fall).

All dead-end roads and roads that the BLM expects to use for five years or less would continue to be closed. There are no actions that address maintaining a specific road density for deer, elk or moose habitat. There are no actions that address specific recovery activities to protect the grizzly bear population.

Action Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D): All newly constructed roads would be closed and partially obliterated when the road is no longer needed. This action would limit motorized transportation on the road network but may present opportunities for closed roads to become hiking trails. Under Alternative C, BLM would also reduce (through decommissioning) or limit open road densities to one mile of road per square mile or less, outside of urban or rural areas, for deer, elk, or moose habitat protection. A reduction in the road and trail system could lead to more of a demand on the existing transportation system and possibly conflicts between road and trail users. More demand on a shrinking transportation system would also increase the need for trail and road maintenance.

Impacts from Special Species Management

Impacts from INFISH/CNFISH are addressed under Impacts from Fish and Wildlife. Under current management, complying with ESA and BLM policy regarding special status species could impact travel through road closures, relocation, or seasonal restrictions. However, there are no specific objectives in actions under current management which would affect travel.

Action Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D): Requiring road building to be compatible with grizzly bear habitat requirements would restrict the areas where new roads in the network, including temporary roads, could be located, and would apply to 3,603 acres of grizzly bear habitat.

Within lynx areas there would be no new designated snowplay areas or snow compaction activities (groomed trail). These activities would limit snowmobiling opportunities on 28,757 acres.

4.3.6 Transportation and Travel Management

Although the objectives and actions are slightly different from Alternatives B and C, impacts on travel would be the same.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Road closures in times of severe fire danger would temporarily limit access, reducing travel opportunities. However, these closures would help to protect those who use the roads and trails, though temporary opening of roads/access for fire management activities could be necessary.

Impacts from Cultural Resources Management

There are 5,353 acres designated limited for all motorized vehicles (including snowmobiles) to protect cultural resources under Alternative A. Under the action alternatives (B, C, and D), motorized vehicles (except snowmobiles) would be limited to designated roads on all BLM lands that are not closed to motorized use. This is not directly related to cultural resources. However, under Alternatives B and D, snowmobiles would be limited to designated roads to protect cultural resources on the same 5,353 acres specified under current management. Under alternative C, no off-road snowmobile use would be allowed on any BLM land; however, this restriction is not directly related to cultural resources.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

Construction and location of roads and trails could be impacted by VRM Class II designations. Only small changes to the landscape are allowed within areas classified as VRM II. The potential for impacts would correspond with the total area classified as VRM II within each alternative: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations). VRM I only occurs in WSAs where interim management would be as strict, or even stricter than VRM objectives.

Impacts from Forest Products Management

Impacts are described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Similar to forest vegetation treatments, mineral development can result in construction of new roads or maintenance of exiting roads. Currently (Alternatives A, and B) there are 5,376 acres withdrawn from mining. Alternative C proposes to withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D proposes to withdraw only an additional 27 acres over current. Thus Alternatives A, B, and D would allow more opportunity for mineral development with correspondingly more opportunities for road construction and maintenance than Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

All alternatives would limit motorized vehicle access to designated routes in the Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA and the Lower Coeur d'Alene River SRMA (or Killarney Lake SRMA in Alternatives C and D). Motorized boating would also be prohibited in Blackwell Canals, outside of the boat launch area.

Alternative A: Recreation opportunities, including those associated with OHVs, motorbikes, bikes, hiking, horseback riding, boating, and snowmobiling, would continue to be managed on the existing road and trail network. Under this alternative, BLM would manage three SRMAs (3,249 acres), in which the trail and road network may be reduced or expanded if the activities were consistent with recreation objectives. Most of the public lands would be under custodial management in the ERMA, in which the road system could expand to serve the management objectives of other resources.

Alternative B: Improvements to the motorized and nonmotorized transportation system are planned under Alternative B. Under this alternative 63,927 acres (66 percent of BLM land) would be managed in SRMAs.

Several nonmotorized trails would be planned for the Blue Creek Bay and Loff's Bay area, including an upland nonmotorized trail system in Blue Creek Bay and a day-use picnic site, trail, and wildlife viewing area in Loff's Bay. In addition, trails would be constructed in the Cougar Bay Wildlife Viewing Area. A paved access road with six parking stalls would be constructed. This action would increase the access to Cougar Bay and increase the mileage of nonmotorized trails in the Coeur d'Alene Lake SRMA.

Gamlin Lake SRMA would be managed for local residents to engage in day-use nonmotorized trail or water-related activities. Nonmotorized recreation is emphasized, so improved road access to developed recreation sites would not be an action in this alternative. Motorized vehicles would be limited to designated developed roads, as in Alternative A. Under this alternative, though, some trails would be open to equestrian use and other trails would be closed. This action would allow limited opportunity for equestrian travel.

In the Rochat Divide/Pine Creek (backcountry motorized zone) SRMA, improvements would be made to roads that access trailheads and primitive road and trail recreation routes through the area. Motorized vehicles would be limited to designated routes. Motorized single-track trails would be limited to two-wheeled vehicles only. The Middle Fork Pine Creek Road would not be maintained but would be managed as a challenging four-wheel drive vehicle trail. This action would work to improve the condition of existing roads and trails that allow the most access to recreation. Four-wheel drive vehicle access would be emphasized in certain areas but limited to roads and designated double-track trails.

In the Rochat Divide/Pine Creek (backcountry motorized zone) SRMA, easements would be required to provide a continuous trail route along the Coeur d'Alene St. Joe Divide from the Rochat Divide Road to the National Forest boundary. It would be managed as a motorized route, except that portion within the Crystal Lake WSA. However, if the WSA were released from further congressional consideration, then motorized use of this trail would be allowed within the WSA area. This action would increase the mileage of motorized trails in the FO and would increase the access within the FO for motorized users.

In the Rochat Divide/Pine Creek (backcountry nonmotorized zone) SRMA, primitive road access would be provided to trailhead facilities and trail access through the area. Motorized vehicles would be limited to designated travel routes, and motorized single-track trails would be limited to two-wheeled vehicles only. The Crystal Lake Trail from Sheep Springs would be closed to equestrian and mechanized uses. Overall motorized travel in this area of the SRMA would be more limited than under Alternative A.

In the Silver Valley SRMA, paved and improved road access would be provided to developed sites and other areas, and trails would be provided to access recreation facilities. Motorized travel would be limited to designated routes. This action could increase the mileage and condition of the existing road and trail network in the Silver Valley area.

In the Huckleberry SRMA, a road system would be developed around the campground, but motorized travel would be limited to designated routes. This action would increase visitor access to this SRMA.

Alternative C: This alternative would manage recreation areas for dispersed uses and undeveloped areas and would not encourage the creation of more motorized roads or trails. Under this alternative, 60,866 acres (63 percent of BLM lands) would be managed within SRMAs.

4.3.6 Transportation and Travel Management

Travel management activities in the CdA Lake SRMA would be the same as under Alternative B. Travel management in Gamlin Lake SRMA would be similar to Alternative B, except that all trails would be open to equestrian use. This action would allow the greatest opportunity to travel trails by horse in this SRMA.

Travel management in Rochat Divide SRMA backcountry motorized area would be similar to Alternative B, except that the Middle Fork Pine Creek Road would not be designated as a motorized travel route, thereby providing fewer miles for motorized uses. The Rochat Divide SRMA backcountry nonmotorized area would have the same impacts as Alternative B.

In the Widow Mountain SRMA, road access to trailheads and improved trail access would be provided throughout the area. Motorized travel would be limited to designated routes. Motorized single-track trails would be limited to two-wheeled vehicles. This alternative could increase the mileage and condition of the existing transportation network in the Widow Mountain area.

The Silver Valley Area and the Huckleberry Campground would be managed in the ERMA, as under Alternative A, and would not place management activities toward expanding the roads and trails for recreation in this area.

Compared to Alternatives A and B, the general impact of recreation management on travel and transportation would be development of lower impact, dispersed nonmotorized transportation resources, a reduction in access to motorized uses, and a proportionally greater volume of traffic on roads that remain available for motorized vehicles.

Alternative D: Under this alternative, the FO would manage seven SRMAs that total 79,151 acres, which would make up about 82 percent of the FO. The percent of land in SMRAs would be the highest under this alternative. This management strategy would protect the most acreage to be managed toward recreation-related goals and objectives to provide the most recreation opportunities for users. Impacts of this management strategy would be that the transportation system would be maintained and expanded to meet related recreation goals. Alternative D would protect the most miles of recreation-related transportation than any other alternatives.

Custodial management would still occur on the ERMA, but the percentage of land in the ERMA would be the lowest under this alternative (18 percent). Effects of this would be that resource development-related activities, such as mineral exploration and timber harvest, would be less likely to create expansion of the transportation system than under the other alternatives.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Under all alternatives, providing opportunities for development of renewable energy resources would require allowing access for facilities or for biomass removal. Such actions would require continued use or expansion of the existing travel network, requiring a greater number of roads.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Objectives and actions which specify closures and limitations on travel are the result of identified needs to protect other resources. The table below shows changes from current management for motorized travel.

Table 4.3.6-1 Changes to Travel Management by Alternative

Travel Designation	Current Management	Changes from Current Management		
	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Open Travel Areas (acres)	63,041	-63,041	-63,041	-63,041
Closed Travel Areas (acres)	162	0	+149	+469
Limited Travel Areas (acres)	33,567	+63,041	+62,982	+63,572
Designated Roads/Trails (miles)	27	+255	+95	+148
Roads/Trails with Seasonal or Vehicle Restrictions (miles)	14	+99	+55	+54
Open to Off-road Snowmobile (acres)	66,949	-2,792	-66,949	-3,576

The greatest difference between the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) and current management is that all of the current open area (65 percent of BLM land) becomes limited or closed. Also of note, the new designated roads and trails under the action alternatives are mostly within the area that is currently designated open.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Current management of land retention and acquisition is primarily based on a geographic boundary. However, consolidation and improved public access is always considered during land acquisitions or adjustments. Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D), public access is identified as a criterion for retention and acquisition, which would increase emphasis and the potential for improving the travel and transportation network.

Also, unlike current management, the action alternatives identify rights-of-way (ROW) and use authorization restrictions by designation of ROW exclusion and avoidance areas. No authorizations (e.g., new roads, commercial road use and maintenance) would be allowed within the exclusion areas. Authorizations would only be granted within the avoidance areas if there was no practical alternative. Thus the opportunities for development of new roads, and maintenance of existing roads would be primarily restricted to areas outside of exclusion and avoidance areas. Under Alternative B, 46 percent of BLM lands are within exclusion or avoidance areas. Under Alternative C 71 percent of BLM land is with these areas, and 35 percent under Alternative D.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Under all alternatives, the National Recreation Trail (NRT) would continue to be managed and maintained in Mineral Ridge and Marble Creek. The transportation system associated with the Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas would continue to be managed and maintained in good condition. No back country byways are specified in this alternative. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) designate a back country byway. Alternative B would add 5 new miles, and C would add 8 new miles of NRT. These designations would increase emphasis on maintenance on these routes.

Under all alternatives, special designations would be managed in a way that would restrict certain motorized and nonmotorized activities, if these activities would jeopardize the resource values special to the area. Under Alternatives C and D, Farnham Forest ACEC/RNA would be closed to motorized vehicles. Under Alternative C, Morton Slough ACEC would also be closed. However, closure of these small unroaded areas (148 acres for C, and 33 Acres for D) would have negligible impact on travel.

4.3.6 Transportation and Travel Management

Impacts from Social and Economic Management

Health and Safety. Under all alternatives, activities related to cleanup, remediation, and closure of contaminated or hazardous sites could result in the temporary or permanent closure of roads and trails to prohibit public access to these hazardous sites, reducing the size of the transportation network. In addition, Alternative D closes all sites with significant known hazardous materials (149 acres) to motorized travel.

4.3.6.3 Cumulative Effects

As discussed under Section 4.3.4, *Recreation*, population growth in the planning area and statewide is increasing. From 1999 to 2003, motorbike and ATV registrations experienced an increase of approximately 88 percent and snowmobile registrations increased 13 percent from 2000 to 2004. From 1993 to 2003, annual recreational vehicle registrations in Idaho also increased by almost 16,000, now totaling 87,000 registrations per year (Idaho Department of Transportation 2004).

As the US Forest Service revises its management plans, activities that are restricted or permitted could affect transportation and travel management. Forest Service planners are reviewing inventoried roadless areas, which are generally managed for low development and resource protection and enhancement. If the Forest Service were to close inventoried roadless areas to motorized recreation, then displacement would occur and an increased demand for motorized recreation on public lands could shift to BLM-managed lands.

Changes to route designations on BLM and US Forest Service lands, in addition to accessibility through private parcels, would affect recreationists by altering and possibly restricting motorized vehicle access to areas. If the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Revision restricts OHV use then available OHV opportunities in the area would be cumulatively reduced, when considered with OHV open area reductions or eliminations on BLM lands.

Development on and surrounding public lands and certain restrictions as result of development could reduce long-term recreational opportunities for some user groups (such as OHV users); however, the same development and restrictions, such as route designations, could expand recreational opportunities of other users seeking more primitive experiences.

Alternative A: Potential impacts to transportation and access would result from various land use restrictions such as sensitive resource and wildlife areas that would limit public access and use within the CdA FO. Impacts to transportation and access would also result from developing commodities such as timber or minerals, which would expand the mileage of roads for access to development activities.

The majority of cumulative effects on transportation and access within the CdA FO would also result from actions that would require land use restrictions. Various wildlife protections would potentially cause cumulative impacts to transportation and access by placing additional land use restrictions within the FO. All restrictions would reduce the potential for access easement acquisition and BLM-designated road development locations and limit access within the CdA FO. However, opportunities for access easement acquisition and BLM-designated road development and reasonable public access would still be available.

Alternative A would contribute the least to cumulative effects because most BLM land would remain open to off-road vehicle use, and there are no ROW exclusion or avoidance areas. Alternatives B and D would contribute to cumulative effects due to the designation of all lands as limited to designated roads for wheeled OHVs. These two alternatives would also designate ROW exclusion and avoidance areas. Alternative C would contribute the most to cumulative effects because it has similar impacts to B and D, and because no off-road snowmobile use would be allowed.

4.3.7 Lands and Realty

4.3.7.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions could result in impacts on lands and realty management if any management actions were to change the acres of lands in federal ownership, change the extent of withdrawals, or change the way that ROWs or permits are managed or authorized. However, no withdrawals from the land laws (closure to surface entry) are proposed under any alternative.

Indicators that were used to quantitatively and qualitatively assess management changes that could affect lands and realty management include the following:

- Acres and criteria of land tenure adjustment (retention and adjustment)
- Designation of ROW utility corridors
- Acres available for rights-of-way (would include all lands that are not part of exclusion areas)

4.3.7.2 Impacts

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management Land Tenure Adjustment.

Under current management, 26 percent of the land managed by BLM is available for exchange or adjustment. Under Alternatives B and D, 10 percent would be available, and under Alternative C, 25 percent would be available. Thus Alternatives A and C have the potential for greatest loss of land area to federal ownership. Action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) designate ROW corridors, which would serve to concentrate the locations of future ROWs. Alternative A has no such ROW corridor designations.

Rights-of-Way.

Alternative A: There are no designations of rights-of-way corridors across the planning area under Alternative A.

Alternative B: This alternative would involve 21,636 acres (22 percent of BLM land) of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres (24 percent of BLM land) of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. ROWs and use permits would be concentrated in the remaining 51,548 acres (54 percent of BLM land).

Alternative C: This alternative would involve 21,819 acres (23 percent of BLM land) of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres (48 percent of BLM land) of ROW avoidance areas. The difference in exclusion areas from Alternative B is not substantial. However, the additional avoidance area means that authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining area of only 28,678 acres (29 percent of BLM land).

Alternative D: This alternative would involve 22,069 (23 percent of BLM land) acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres (12 percent of BLM land) of ROW avoidance areas. Authorizations would be concentrated on the remaining 63,389 acres (65 percent of BLM land).

4.4 Special Designations

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species Management

INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D) calls for avoiding impacts on riparian habitat when issuing leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements. Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) this would be accomplished primarily through designation of 9,099 acres of riparian habitat (9 percent of BLM land) as ROW avoidance areas. INFISH and CNFISH also call for use of land acquisitions, exchange, and acquisition easements to enhance riparian and aquatic habitats and native fish populations. The action alternatives all identify some form of fish habitat (fishable under B, riparian and special status species under C, and riparian and threatened and endangered under D) as retention and acquisition criterion. In addition, Alternative B identifies habitat for fishable, trappable, and viewable wildlife as criterion. Alternatives C and D also call for retention of stands of late-seral forested habitats.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

VRM Class I lands are within WSAs. See the Impacts from Special Designations for a description of impacts from WSAs. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) designate all VRM II areas as ROW avoidance areas. Current management and Alternative B designate 14,312 acres as VRM II, Alternative C would increase this to 42,273 acres (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and Alternative D would designate 23,551 acres as VRM II (a 65 percent increase over current designations). The overall impact to lands and realty actions from visual resources would be to restrict lands and realty authorizations within VRM II areas. VRM III and IV areas would have no impact on lands and realty authorizations.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. This would severely limit ROW and other use authorizations within these areas. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where authorizations are already limited. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would not add additional restrictions, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Indefinite protective management of five stream segments totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for WSR designation would similarly limit lands actions. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer). Of the remaining protected corridors, all but about 300 acres fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which is already protected. Thus, protection of eligible segments would not add notable restrictions, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

If Grandmother Mountain (11,893 acres) and Crystal Lake (9103 acres) WSAs are released from further study, the released areas would mostly be managed as VRM Class II, which would limit their availability for ROWs. Some areas would be managed as Class I because of other designations and because of those designations would likely be off limits to ROWs. If Selkirk Crest WSA (671 acres) is released from study, it would be managed as Class II; these lands, like Grandmother Mountain and Crystal Lake, would likely be of limited availability for ROWs.

Alternative B: Impacts from ACECs would be the same as Alternative A, except that the 2,981 acres are identified as ROW avoidance areas. All eligible WSR segments were found unsuitable under this alternative, and would have no impact.

If Grandmother Mountain, Crystal Lake, and Selkirk Crest WSAs are released from further study, they would be managed as VRM Class II; these lands would likely be of limited availability for ROWs. This would result in roughly the same impacts as under Alternative A.

Alternative C: This alternative would designate 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional ROW exclusion areas would truly be afforded, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Four of the new ACECs (3,069 acres – 164 acres outside the WSA) would be ROW exclusion areas. The remainder (20,206 acres – 5,046 acres outside the WSA) would be ROW avoidance areas.

Also, all five eligible WSR segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording the same restrictions as under Alternative A, plus 2,671 acres (all within the WSA) would be ROW exclusion areas, and 823 acres (all outside the WSA) would be ROW avoidance areas.

If Grandmother Mountain and Crystal Lake WSAs are released from further study, the released areas would be managed as VRM Class I, which would limit their availability for ROWs, although they would not be officially excluded from ROW development. If Selkirk Crest WSA is released from study, it would be managed as Class II. This would mean it would be of limited availability for ROW development, although less restricted than the Class I areas.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in ROW exclusion areas. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternative C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Social and Economic Conditions Management

Health and Safety. In accordance with current BLM policy (Alternative A) and as specified under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) land containing hazardous materials would be available for transfer (adjustment or exchange) only to the party legally identified as responsible for site remediation and cleanup (the potentially responsible party); therefore, this would result in a slightly smaller amount of acreage available for adjustment. Public health and safety actions would limit the acres available for certain permitted uses, ROW use, and land tenure adjustment.

4.3.7.3 Cumulative Effects

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions that make up the cumulative effects scenario affect lands and realty. Urban development would continue to restrict public lands by private landowners. Human activities, such as mining and timber harvesting, will continue to require issuance of permits and authorizations of ROWs. Private lands adjacent to public lands could contribute to maintaining larger areas for more efficient land management for various resources, including habitat management. Land exchanges would continue to consolidate public lands and facilitate land management. Counties within the planning area will begin to address growth in county development plans and other planning and zoning efforts, which should involve land management coordination with BLM.

4.4 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

4.4 Special Designations

4.4.1.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions could result in impacts on special designations if any management actions were to directly or indirectly change the quantity and availability of the values that special designations are intended to highlight or protect.

4.4.1.2 Impacts

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Alternative A: BLM Interim Management Policy (IMP) would continue to be implemented within the three WSAs, so as not to impair their suitability for wilderness designation.

Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. The IMP would preclude most activities that could cause impacts on relevant and important values. Thus, continuing designation of Lund Creek RNA would have little impact, unless the WSA was released for multiple uses by Congress.

There would be no specific management intended to protect other areas found to have relevant and important values during the ACEC nomination evaluation. However, many of these values would receive protection through other resource management direction, including: INFISH, special status species management, old growth vegetation treatment objectives and actions, cultural resources management, travel management, or hazardous materials management.

Indefinite protective management of five stream segments totaling 28 miles (3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for WSR designation would similarly protect outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer), and very little ability to protect values along the entire segment. Of the remaining protected corridors, all but about 300 acres fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. Similar to the situation for Lund Creek RNA, protection of eligible segments within the WSA would have little impact, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

The following sites would continue to be recognized as Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas: Lower Coeur d'Alene River, Cougar Bay, Gamlin Lake, and Wolf Lodge Bay. There would be no impacts on watchable wildlife viewing areas.

National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations for the Mineral Ridge (3.3 miles) and the Marble Creek trail system (45 miles), totaling 48.3 miles, would continue. There would be no impacts on national trails.

The BLM would continue to manage select routes as back country byways to highlight and provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized pleasure driving activities in natural and semiprimitive settings. There would be no impacts on back country byways.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would protect relevant and important values as described under Alternative A, and would enhance this protection by making the areas right-of-way (ROW) avoidance areas (see Impacts from Lands and Realty). Impacts on values in areas not designated are the same as described under Alternative A.

Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention, and there would be no additional protection of the outstandingly

remarkable values. However, CNFISH would provide some protection of the riparian habitat within these corridors. Protection of other areas found to have relevant and important values during the ACEC nomination evaluation would be identical to Alternative A.

When released by Congress from further study, the BLM would manage the WSAs (21,637 acres) for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative B. Without the application of the IMP, there would be potential for degradation of the wilderness characteristics for which the WSAs were originally designated. However many of these characteristics would be preserved indirectly through management direction for the Lund Creek RNA, Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA, special status species habitat, and CNFISH.

The following sites would be recognized as Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas: Blackwell Island, Blue Creek Bay, Lower Coeur d'Alene River, Cougar Bay, Gamlin Lake, and Wolf Lodge Bay, which would increase the number of watchable wildlife viewing areas. This would have long-term impacts by providing additional locations for watching wildlife.

Under Alternative B, the National Recreation Trail (NRT) designations for the Mineral Ridge and the Marble Creek trail system would continue. Additionally, the following routes would be nominated for designation: Beauty Bay Trail (0.4 miles), Blackwell Island Boardwalk (0.25 miles), and Gamlin Lake Trails (4.3 miles). This would increase the amount of national trails from 48.3 miles to 53.25 miles, which would have few long-term impacts.

Under Alternative B, the Rochat Divide Road (including the Phillips Draw Road and spur to the summit of St. Joe Baldy) would be recognized and managed as a back country byway, totaling 44 miles. This would have long-term impacts by providing designated byways for motorized pleasure.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect relevant and important values through designation of all areas found to have relevant and important values in the ACEC nomination evaluation. This would add 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs. Similar to Lund Creek under Alternative A, designation of areas within the WSAs would have no impact, unless the WSAs were released by Congress. The proposed Hideaway Islands, Lund Creek, and Farnham Forest RNAs/ACECs and Windy Bay ACEC (total of 3,085 acres – 180 outside the WSA) are ROW exclusion areas, and the remaining ACECs are ROW avoidance areas under this alternative (see Impacts from Lands and Realty).

Also, all five eligible WSR segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A, which would become permanent if Congress officially designates them as wild and scenic. Wild corridors are ROW exclusion areas, and other corridors are ROW avoidance areas under this alternative (see Impacts from Lands and Realty).

When released by Congress from further study, the BLM would manage the WSAs for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative B. Without the application of the IMP, there would be potential for degradation of the wilderness characteristics for which the WSAs were originally designated. However many of these characteristics would be preserved indirectly through management direction for the Lund Creek RNA/ACEC, Little North Fork of the Clearwater ACEC, Rochat Divide ACEC, WSR suitable segments, Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA, Widow Mountain SRMA, special status species habitat, and CNFISH.

The impacts on Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas would be the same as Alternative B.

4.4 Special Designations

Impacts from NRT designation would be the same as Alternative B, except a fourth trail (Crystal Lake Trail) that is 3.2 miles would also be nominated for national trail designation. This would increase the amount of national trails from 48.3 miles to 56.45 miles, which would have no long-term impacts.

Impacts from back country byways would be the same as Alternative B, and the BLM would work with the Forest Service to jointly recognize Road 301 through the Widow Mountain area as a back country byway. This would have long-term impacts by increasing the total number of back country byways to 54 miles.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford protection of relevant and important values. All ACEC/RNAs are ROW exclusion areas (see Impacts from Lands and Realty). Impacts on values in areas not designated are the same as described under Alternative A.

Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives C, except no suitability determination was made for the Kootenai River segment. As under Alternative A, the eligible segment would be managed as a wild and scenic segment indefinitely, or until suitability determination is made.

When released by Congress from further study, the BLM would manage the WSAs for multiple uses consistent with resource goals of Alternative B. Without the application of the IMP, there would be potential for degradation of the wilderness characteristics for which the WSAs were originally designated. However many of these characteristics would be preserved indirectly through management direction for the Lund Creek RNA/ACEC, Wild and Scenic River suitable segments, Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA, Widow Mountain SRMA, special status species habitat, and CNFISH.

Impacts involving Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas would be the same as Alternative B.

Impacts involving National Recreation Trails would be the same as Alternative C.

Impacts involving back country byways would be the same as Alternative C; however, the spur to the summit of St. Joe Baldy would not be recognized as a back country byway.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Forest vegetation treatments under all alternatives have potential to impact many of the special values for which areas are identified for special designations. Impacts would primarily be from changes to the forest vegetation, construction of roads, and short-term increases in noise and human activities. However, designation of special areas, and management direction outlined for designations, either specified in the alternatives or from BLM policies (e.g., IMP for WSAs), would protect areas from impacts. Areas with special values that are not designated would be vulnerable to impacts. However these values are often directly or indirectly protected by other management direction including: INFISH/CNFISH, special status species management, old growth vegetation treatment objectives and actions, cultural resources management, travel management, SRMA management, or hazardous materials management.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, management actions that protect sensitive species would compliment the protection of resources within special area designations. Special status species management direction also provides direct and indirect protection for values in areas that are not designated.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Potential impacts from fuels treatments are described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management. Alternatives A and B emphasize suppression to protect commodity resources, which could indirectly protect special values through suppression of fires in their vicinity. Alternative C emphasizes protection of noncommodity resources and Alternative D balances commodity and noncommodity resources. Both of these latter alternatives also call for use of MIST in special designation areas. MIST may or may not be applied in areas with special values that are not designated. Thus Alternatives C and D would provide more direct protection of special values than A or B. All of the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) identify areas where fire use would be considered. These areas are outside the WUI which is also where most areas with special values occur. Fire use has potential to allow vegetation to burn within areas with special values, which may degrade or possibly enhance the value and viability of the special designation. There are no fire use areas under current management.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Under Alternatives A and B, approximately 1,839 acres (Latour Creek Allotment) within the Crystal Lake WSA are allocated for grazing. However, this allotment is not currently leased, and would not be allocated for livestock grazing under Alternatives C or D. If it were to be leased, the Idaho Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management would be enforced which would provide some protection for special values.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Mineral developments could degrade special values through road construction, vegetation and soil removal, mine waste, and mining equipment and activities. Currently (Alternatives A and B) only 1,165 acres within areas identified with special values are withdrawn from mining. Alternative C recommends withdrawals on all ACECs. Alternative D only proposes withdrawal of the Pulaski Tunnel. However, other than the Pulaski Tunnel, and the ACECs under Alternative C that would be designated to protect the public from hazardous mine wastes, the other areas with special values are within areas that have low potential for mineral development. Federal regulations require submission of a plan of development for BLM approval for mineral developments within ACECs and areas closed to motorized vehicles. The areas with hazardous materials identified for ACEC designation under Alternative C are identified as closed to motorized vehicles under Alternative D, affording BLM the same discretion for protecting the public from these hazards.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Under current management 3,276 acres of areas with special designations are open to off-road motorized vehicle use. This could result in degradation of special values, or increased hazard to the public in areas with hazardous materials. However, under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) all BLM lands are designated as either limited (motorized vehicles may only use designated roads and trails), or closed (motorized vehicle use prohibited), thus there is little potential for related impacts. The only special values that off-road snowmobile use could impact are the cultural values in the Rochat Divide area. This area is closed to off-road snowmobile use under all alternatives.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Lands identified for adjustment vary by alternative, but usually include small isolated parcels. Many of these parcels contain special values (e.g., Hideaway Islands, Farnham Forest, Kootenai River Front, and Windy Bay. Special designation areas are specifically identified for retention under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D). Since most areas with special values are also managed for other resources (special status species habitat, riparian habitat, special recreation management areas, etc.) they are usually indirectly identified for retention.

ROW and use authorizations usually involve road or facilities construction, maintenance, and use, which could degrade unprotected special values. ACECs/RNAs and Wild and Scenic River eligible and suitable segments are designated as ROW exclusion or avoidance areas under the action alternatives, which would minimize the potential for impacts. When areas with special values are not designated, they are vulnerable to impacts, unless other management direction protects them (e.g., riparian habitat buffers are ROW avoidance areas). Current management identifies no exclusion or avoidance areas.

4.4.1.3 Cumulative Effects

ACECs/RNAs:

Alternative A: Cumulative effects within or adjacent to ACECs/RNAs would continue from surface-disturbing activities. An increasing population could continue to build housing closer to ACECs/RNAs, thereby affecting the visual resources of the area. Livestock grazing would continue to make it easier for weeds to become established in ACECs/RNAs. As there are no mineral lease stipulations, mining activities may encroach on ACECs/RNAs. Other surface-disturbing activities, such as rights-of-way, would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. It is assumed the ICBEMP and National Forest Plan Revisions take into consideration the protection of the special characteristics of ACECs/RNAs so that conflicting management actions do not occur. The cumulative effects to ACECs/RNAs would depend on the intensity and proximity of surface-disturbing activities.

Alternative B: Cumulative effects within or adjacent to ACECs/RNAs would occur from surface-disturbing activities. An increasing population could continue to build housing closer to ACECs/RNAs, thereby affecting the visual resources of the area. However, less livestock grazing in ACECs/RNAs would occur, making it more difficult for weeds to become established in ACECs/RNAs. Also, mineral lease stipulations (such as NSOs) would limit mining activities on ACECs/RNAs, and rights-of-way would not be authorized on ACECs/RNAs. It is assumed the ICBEMP and National Forest Plan Revisions take into consideration the protection of the special characteristics of ACECs/RNAs so that conflicting management actions do not occur. The cumulative effects to ACECs/RNAs would depend on the intensity and proximity of surface-disturbing activities, but the effects would be less than those under Alternative A.

Alternative C: The effects would be the same as those described under Alternative B; however, less livestock grazing would be allowed in ACECs/RNAs.

Alternative D: The effects would be the same as those described under Alternative B; however, more livestock grazing would be allowed in ACECs/RNAs.

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas: Historical and projected population increases influence wilderness areas and WSAs, which are typically used for primitive recreation. The planning area's projected 36 percent population growth and Idaho's projected 35 percent population growth over the next 20 years would likely lead to increased demand for primitive recreation areas in and around the planning area. Use of these areas would intensify as population increases. Additionally, there are another 1.7 million acres of other Wilderness areas within or immediately adjacent to the five-county planning area, including the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (1.3 million acres on National Forest lands), Gospel Hump Wilderness (205,000 acres on National Forest lands), Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (2.4 million acres on National Forest), and Hells Canyon Wilderness (215,000 acres on National Forest and BLM [Vale District, Oregon] lands). As such, there are ample other Wilderness area opportunities to attract and accommodate this population growth. And,

provided that there are actions that protect the Wilderness' and WSAs' characteristics from development and surface-disturbing activities, the increasing population's demands could be met.

National Trails: Cumulative effects on National Trails that have occurred and will continue to occur include archaeological investigations, illegal activities (e.g., cultural resource site vandalism or collecting), and development and maintenance activities (e.g., grazing, mining, recreation use, and OHV use). Archaeologists would continue to survey, identify, document, and preserve National Trail resources. However, the other activities would continue to threaten the discovery of, quality of, and integrity of National Trail resources on BLM-administered lands, as well as elsewhere.

Watchable Wildlife Viewing Sites: Cumulative effects on watchable wildlife viewing sites affect habitat for wildlife and disturbances to wildlife. Numerous cumulative actions and events, such as mineral development, timber harvesting, and motorized recreation, have the potential for diminishing habitat and disturbing wildlife. Assuming watchable wildlife viewing sites preserve sufficient habitat for wildlife and limit disturbances to wildlife, cumulative effects would be minimal.

4.5 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

4.5.1 Socioeconomics

4.5.1.1 Methods of Analysis

Objectives and actions from the alternatives would impact socioeconomics if they result in changes in local economies or socioeconomic indicators. Special attention was given to determine if impacts would disproportionately affect low income or minority groups. Indicators include:

- Changes in employment rates and revenues within the local economies;
- Effects on tribal access to offreservation tribal rights and tribal financial interests;
- Separation or displacement of low income or minority populations from community facilities; and
- Disruption of minority businesses.

4.5.1.2 Impacts

No low-income or minority populations would be displaced or separated from community facilities, nor would minority businesses be disrupted, so low-income and minority groups would not be disproportionately affected through these types of actions.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, restrictions on vegetation treatments within RHCAs/RCA prevents harvesting of forest products from 9,099 acres (11 percent of BLM forested area). Alternatives would treat 1,200 to 9,600 acres over 15 years; therefore, these restrictions would not prevent meeting these treatment objectives and extracting forest products from outside the RHCAs/RCA. However, these restrictions would affect the number of acres available for harvest during individual timber sales, decreasing the revenue generated by each sale. INFISH (Alternative A) and CNFISH (Alternatives B, C, and D), also place restrictions on roads and landings within RHCAs/RCA which could increase the costs for harvesting forest products, further reducing revenue generated. Similarly, other wildlife and special status species management actions would constrain vegetation treatments and road construction in certain habitats, resulting in the same impact on revenue. Alternative C recommends the withdrawal of public lands within 300 feet of special status fish streambeds from mineral leasing. This would reduce the opportunity for the mineral industry to develop these areas, and limit revenues from the industry.

Conversely, under all alternatives, actions that enhance habitat for big game would provide more hunting opportunities, which would indirectly generate income for local economies from hunters. Alternative B calls for enhancement of sport fish habitat, which could have similar impacts from increased fishing.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Under all alternatives, fuels treatments in WUI areas and suppression of wildfire to protect people and property would reduce the potential for economic losses to local communities that could otherwise result from wildland fire. Alternatives A and B emphasize protection of economically valuable (revenue generating) commodity resources. Alternative C emphasizes protection of noncommodity resources (wildlife habitat, water quality, etc.) which could result in less protection of revenue generating resources. Alternative D balances emphasis between commodity and noncommodity resources.

Impacts from Forestry and Woodland Products Management

Forest products from BLM lands affect local economies by generating income for individuals, companies, and corporations. These effects would be directly related to the quantity of forest products. Table 4.5.1-1 below lists the 15-year PSQ for each alternative and uses the October 2005 average for prices paid to timber sale purchasers for material delivered to mills. Since a majority of the sawlogs and hew wood would come from Douglas-fir and grand fir, the average of the delivered log price for these species serves as the basis for determining the average delivered log price in the table below. Some species like western white pine and western red cedar are worth considerably more, while other species like lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir are worth less. The revenues provided to the Federal Government are based on a 21-year average from 1984 to 2004. The amount shown as income to the timber sale purchaser would be the gross amount paid. From this amount the purchaser would pay for logging and hauling, road construction, road renovation, road maintenance, abatement of hazardous fuels, and other costs that may be associated with a timber sale (noxious weed management, site preparation in advance of reforestation, additional treatment of forest fuels, soil stabilization, road reclamation, etc.). The average delivered log price paid to the purchaser would be affected by market conditions and could be more or less on a monthly basis.

However, given the increasing demand for wood products, it is expected that the average delivered log price would increase or remain fairly constant over the next 15 years (Table 4.5.1-1). The table below does not, however, show the value of these products relative to the local communities from operations of saw mills. As noted earlier, the amount of material provided by the BLM to local mills in the planning area would be low when compared with materials provided by the USFS and private sector.

Table 4.5.1-1 Fifteen-Year PSQ and Average Log Price, Stumpage Received, and Gross Incomes

Alternative	15-Year PSQ (MBF)	Average Delivered Log Price (\$/MBF)	Average Stumpage Received by Government (\$/MBF)	Total Gross Income for Purchasers (over 15 yrs)	Total Revenue for Government (over 15 yrs)
A	56,000	\$500	\$90	\$28,000,000	\$5,040,000
B	77,000	\$500	\$90	\$38,500,000	\$6,930,000
C	13,000	\$500	\$90	\$6,500,000	\$1,170,000
D	66,000	\$500	\$90	\$33,000,000	\$5,940,000

The local economies would be affected from vegetation treatments that may occur on timber sale contract areas but that were not covered under the timber sale contract. For examples, service contracts for such things as cone collection for tree seed, seedling production for reforestation, tree planting, stand density management, and treatments to reduce fuels that may or may not be part of a timber sale contract (e.g., slashing, piling, preparation for prescribed burning, prescribed burning, pile burning, mop up contracts, etc.) would provide employment for the local communities. The amount of such work that would be completed would vary according to the acres being treated for each alternative, with Alternative B having the greatest potential for such projects and Alternative C having the least potential.

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Alternatives A and B allocate 4,004 acres providing 583 AUMs. At a lease rate set at \$1.43 per AUM, the BLM could collect \$834 in grazing fees. Presently, only 1,310 acres are leased for grazing. At a 12.5 percent

4.5.1 Socioeconomics

rate of return, approximately \$100 could be returned to the local counties should all available grazing allotments be utilized. Alternatives C and D allocate only 1,218 acres, providing 426 AUMs. At a lease rate set at \$1.43 per AUM, BLM could collect \$609 in grazing fees. At a 12.5 percent rate of return, approximately \$80 could be returned to the local counties should all available allotments continue to be utilized. Thus grazing management has no notable impact on local economies.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Alternatives A and B involve more area (91,394 acres) open to the operation of mining laws than Alternatives C (67,024) and D (91,367). Thus there is more potential for areas to be mined, and more potential for generating revenue and employment for local economies under Alternatives A, B, and D than under Alternative C.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Continuing current management would likely result in fee collections and visitor use similar to 2004 conditions, with a total of \$59,000 in revenues collected from 148,650 visitors (an average of \$2.50 per visitor). In general, recreation management under Alternative B would provide for more and C would provide for fewer developed recreation uses than under Alternative A. Recreation management under Alternative D would provide the most developed recreation uses compared to other alternatives. This could provide the most opportunities for fee collections and could also increase fee revenues.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Biomass energy development and utilization could generate revenue and employment for local economies. Biomass would be a byproduct of forest vegetation treatments, and potential for impacts would correspond with the number of acres proposed for treatment under each alternative. Alternative A would treat 7,000 acres. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would reduce treatments 83 percent reduction, while D would increase treatments 17 percent.

Development of wind energy could also generate revenue and employment for local economies. Development would be managed according to lands and realty management direction. See Impacts from lands and realty below.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

Under current conditions, approximately 3.5 percent of visitor use of BLM-managed lands in Idaho is for OHV recreation. Applying this percentage to the number of recorded users in the CdA FO in 2004, this would represent roughly 7,430 OHV users. At an average expenditure per visitor of \$1,425, this would represent a \$10,587,750 stimulus to the local economy. OHV and snowmobile users who favor open travel would be most likely to continue use of public lands in the CdA FO for recreation under Alternative A. However, there are no areas open to wheeled motorized vehicle use under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D). And under Alternative C, off-road snowmobile use would not be allowed. This could prompt those who favor open OHV travel recreation to go elsewhere, reducing potential expenditures of this user group within the local economy. The amount of area closed does not vary greatly enough among alternative to have an effect on motorized OHV use. Therefore, the factors that do influence motorized travel are the miles of designated roads, miles of designated roads with seasonal or vehicle class restrictions, and amount of area open to off-road snowmobile use. In general, more designated road, fewer restrictions, and more open snowmobile area would attract more visitors, generating more income to the local economies. These factors are displayed in Table 4.5.1-2 below.

Table 4.5.1-2 Transportation and Travel Management by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Open Travel Areas (acres)	63,041	0	0	0
Closed Travel Areas (acres)	162	162	311	631
Limited Travel Areas (acres)	33,567	96,608	96,459	96,139
Designated Roads/Trails (miles)	27	282	122	175
Roads/Trails with Seasonal or Vehicle Restrictions (miles)	14	113	69	68
Open to Off-road Snowmobile (acres)	66,949	64,157	0	63,373

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Land tenure adjustments could result in gain or loss of valuable resources in federal ownership, which could contribute to local economies. Alternative A has a geographic boundary defining areas for retention and acquisition, which incorporates most BLM lands that contain or have potential for valuable commodity resources (e.g., timber, minerals, and recreation). Alternative B identifies commodity resources and developed recreation as criteria for retention and acquisition. Alternative C emphasizes retention and acquisition of noncommodity resources lands, and opportunities for primitive recreation. Alternative D includes both commodity and noncommodity resource values as criteria.

ROW exclusion and avoidance areas could affect costs associated with placement of roads and facilities, thus reducing revenue for local economies from commodity production or extraction. Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or land use permits. However, Alternative B identifies 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. Alternative C identifies 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Alternative D identifies 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas.

Impacts from Social and Economic Conditions Management

Under all alternatives, maintaining areas as safe for public use and providing opportunities for commercial use of natural resources will ensure that those areas are available for economically valuable activities. However, closures of unsafe or contaminated areas will remove those industries from those portions of the CdA FO.

4.5.1.3 Cumulative Effects

Alternative A: Under Alternative A, management of the CdA FO would remain the same, but the above listed actions would continue to occur. Although general socioeconomics would remain the same under current CdA FO management, it could be affected by many of the above listed actions. In addition to the cumulative effects discussed below, cumulative effects on Native American access to offreservation tribal rights and financial interests are considered effects on socioeconomics as well.

Employment rates, revenues within local economies, and dollar returns to counties could be affected by a variety of actions described above. Land tenure actions have and may continue to reduce public lands managed by the CdA FO, reducing county revenues that could come from those areas as well as employment opportunities, while surrounding counties in the CFO experience increases in revenues and employment opportunities through the increase in public lands. Should the CdA FO alter its decreasing land tenure trend and begin increasing its public lands, revenues and employment opportunities for that FO's counties could increase. Revenues and dollar returns could also be impacted as insect and forest disease activities limit

4.5.1 Socioeconomics

opportunities for the timber industry and decreasing fish and wildlife populations force increased Endangered Species Act listings, reducing the availability of those species for recreation and industries.

Several of the above actions could provide for improved employment rates, revenues, and dollar returns to CdA FO counties. The increasing trend of recreation demands could similarly increase county incomes and employment opportunities for local communities. Along these lines, implementation of the National Fire Plan and wildland fire suppression techniques could prevent the loss of housing and revenue opportunities within the region. It would also be expected that the various local management plan revisions would provide better economic opportunities for the regional economies and employment rates.

Population growth within the northern Idaho region is expected to grow even without implementation of the CdA RMP. Within the CdA FO population would grow slower than in the past, but at a rate faster than the state's. This could increase demand for housing and the necessity for public facilities and services.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B, cumulative effects on general socioeconomics would be similar to Alternative A, but with increased opportunities to increase county dollar returns and revenues as well as employment opportunities. The increase in employment opportunities may contribute further to the growing population and demand on the housing market and public services and facilities as people move to the area for jobs. Similarly, the increase in recreation opportunities proposed under Alternative B could bring additional revenues and employment opportunities to the CdA FO counties as well as increase demand on public services and facilities. These changes would be caused by the focus of Alternative B on developing economically viable resources.

Alternative C: Under Alternative C, cumulative effects on general socioeconomics would be similar to Alternative A, with even less opportunities to increase employment rates and county dollar returns and revenues.

Alternative D: Alternative D would balance the cumulative effects on general socioeconomics under Alternatives B and C. County revenues and dollar returns could increase as more industry and recreation activities are allowed in some areas, and decrease as other areas are closed to such activities. Population growth and the housing market could remain the same as under Alternative A, but the demand on public facilities and services could increase as additional recreation and industry opportunities are allowed, compared to Alternative A.

4.5.2 Public Health and Safety – Abandoned Mines and Hazardous Materials

4.5.2.1 Methods of Analysis

Management actions could result in impacts on public health and safety management if actions directly or indirectly change the condition of, or access to abandoned mine lands and hazardous materials sites or the ability to cleanup and protect hazardous sites. Impacts would also occur from actions that result in changes to public safety from other hazards.

Analysis of the alternatives was based on the assumption that increased use of public lands is anticipated to result in the following:

- An increase in illicit dumping and releases of petroleum products and hazardous substances with a corresponding increase in the number of hazard sites;
- An increase in the number of people that come into contact with physical and chemical hazard sites;
- An increase in the disturbance and mobilization of metals from contaminated floodplains, streams and lake bottom sediments; and
- An increase in the potential for disturbance to remediate mine lands and other remediated hazard sites.

4.5.2.2 Impacts

Impacts from Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice

Health and Safety – Abandoned Mines and Hazardous Materials Management

The public health and safety programs of abandoned mine lands (AML) and hazardous materials management (HMM) would reduce threats to public health, safety, environment and property from exposure to hazards associated with abandoned mine lands, hazardous materials, and other hazards on public lands regardless of the alternative adopted. However, the levels of potential risks are anticipated to vary by alternative pursued.

Alternative A: This alternative would continue the current management of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) programs in the planning area with little change. These programs identify (inventory) sites with potential problems and address any issues with appropriate measures. Both programs benefit public safety through the prevention of illegal hazardous materials actions on public lands; ensuring proper use, authorization, permitting, and regulation of hazardous materials on public lands; conducting timely, efficient, and safe responses to hazardous materials incidences on public lands; and correcting physical hazards and cleanup of hazardous sites on public lands. However, Alternative A would not improve public health and safety as much as Alternatives B, C, and D because these alternatives would require special stipulations and closures.

Alternative B: This alternative generally incorporate the elements from Alternatives A and adds program management actions. This alternative would improve the inventories of AML and hazardous material sites with improved tracking using site files and databases. Recreation facilities and use areas would be regularly assessed for safety hazards and corrective actions would be taken to correct these hazards, when necessary.

The development of written monitoring plans for closed/remediated sites and the periodic review of the performance of remedies implemented would assist in providing consistency of site performance over time. The review of remedies used at sites where hazardous substances remain no less often than every five years

would impact public health and safety by ensuring that remedies at these sites remain protective and effective. Use authorizations for these sites would be reviewed for any needed special stipulations to assure public and resource safety. The sites would also be restricted with no surface occupancy or disturbance of the hazardous materials or with stipulations to ensure proper handling and bonding.

Recreation plans would include direction to aid in the protection and/or restriction of recreation access to contaminated floodplain, lakeshore, and submerged areas along Coeur d'Alene Lake and River. Protection and/or restriction of recreation access to this and the mining areas of the Silver Valley (including Pine Creek areas) could help to preserve, if not lead to, an improvement in public safety, water quality and protect aquatic, avian, and mammalian species near these areas. This alternative would appear to be the most protective of the alternatives with regard to human health and safety with recreation management.

Use authorizations for the use of or potential for, hazardous materials on public lands would be reviewed for any needed special stipulations and periodically reviewed for compliance to assure public and resource safety.

Not authorizing the use of or potential for, hazardous materials on public lands is likely the best means of safe guarding human health, preventing environmental damage, and limiting BLM liability from hazards, regardless of whether the uses comply with state and federal regulations.

For sites with potentially hazardous materials, proposed mining activities would be restricted with no disturbance of the hazardous materials or with stipulations to ensure proper handling and bonding under the mining law. The significant known hazardous materials sites would also be restricted with no surface occupancy for mineral leases. Limiting new mining activities on public lands would insure existing hazard sites are protected or handled better to protect the public and environment. Limiting new mining activity would allow the AML and HMM programs to focus on existing metals, contaminated soils, and stream features, resulting in improved environmental health and benefit to public health and safety.

Alternative B generally incorporates the elements from Alternative A and adds more protective actions for public health and safety and environmental health in terms of both short-term and long-term impacts. Alternative B would, however, be somewhat less protective of public health and safety than Alternative C and D.

Alternative C: This alternative contains the elements of Alternative A and elements of Alternative B with the addition that sites with significant known hazardous materials and restored sites have been proposed as ACECs and the sites also would be withdrawn from the mining laws. The use of ACEC designations and withdrawals (closing under the mining law) to protect significant or at-risk closed and remediated sites would be beneficial to public health and safety and environmental health because significant hazardous materials remain and continue to be a threat. Renewal of mining activity at previously mined and contaminated sites could result in incidental or intentional damages to such sites. Restrictions on public access and the management protection of ACEC sites would be the most protective alternative for these specific sites with regards to public health and safety and environmental health.

Alternative C would appear to be more protective of environmental health and public health and safety than Alternative B and much more than Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative contains the elements of Alternative A and elements of Alternative B with the addition that sites that are closed and remediated with hazardous substances remaining and with significant known hazardous materials are also closed to motorized vehicles. The alternative also extends the mineral

leasing no surface occupancy stipulation to all hazardous materials sites. Use of closed to motorized designation and its limitations, including the need to submit a plan of operation for any mining activity to protect significant hazardous sites would be beneficial to public health and safety and environmental health. Restrictions on access, mineral leasing and mining plans along with periodic review of actions and remedies employed appear to be the most protective of the alternatives with regards to public health and safety and environmental health.

Alternative D would generally incorporate the elements from Alternatives A and B that are the most protective of public health and safety and environmental health in terms of both short-term and long-term impacts. Alternative D would, however, be slightly less protective than Alternative C for the use of proposed ACEC sites and closing under the mining law of significant sites, but more protective by closing motorized vehicle use at significant sites and adding no surface occupancy for other known hazardous materials areas.

Impacts from Soil Resources Management

Under all alternatives, implementation of BMPs for actions and events (Appendix A) would help reduce the potential effects of hazardous materials from hazard sources. Erosion protection, site stabilization, and better vegetative cover would reduce exposure and movement of contaminated soils, reduce runoff and flood potential. Mitigation and remediation of ground disturbing activities for roads and other activities could also improve soil conditions that could affect AML and HMM programs. The differences between alternatives would not be measurable in terms of impacts on public health and safety.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, compliance with State and federal requirements to protect public waters would affect AML and HMM programs by prescribing BMPs that would reasonably prevent degradation of water quality on sites. Watershed and stream improvements would reduce the potential for erosion and migration of contaminants. Clean Water Act 303(d) streams could affect public health and safety as contaminated sites occurring on or in the segments would require mitigation measures to reduce point sources.

Alternative A would neither implement specific actions to reduce nonpoint source pollution or maintain nor improve water resource attributes (i.e., water quality) that would affect changes for the improvement of public health and safety. Alternative A would not implement any specific cooperative relationships with landowners, agencies, communities, and municipalities that could improve beneficial uses of water and indirectly affect public health and safety.

Impacts from Alternatives B (and C and D) would implement specific actions to reduce nonpoint source pollution and maintain and improve water resource attributes (i.e., water quality) that would affect changes for the improvement of public health and safety. Also PFC and nonpoint efforts for water improvement would be the same for the alternatives. Cooperation with adjacent landowners, agencies, tribes, communities, and municipalities would also be beneficial in remediating and restoring AML and hazardous material sites.

Impacts from Alternatives C and D water resources management on public health and safety would be the same as Alternative B.

Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management

Conducting fuels reduction treatments and returning stands to historic conditions within the WUI would reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and private property and would have an indirect effect on public health and safety from the standpoint of protecting the public from wildfire injury. However, conducting treatments on or proximal to AML and hazardous sites could produce undesirable ground disturbance and

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the construction of roads creating more access to hazard sites. The intensity of this impact would depend on the number of acres harvested. Alternative A would treat forest vegetation on 7,000 acres for these purposes. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would result in an 83 percent reduction, while D would increase treatments 17 percent. While the number of acres varies by alternative, the impacts on public health and safety would largely depend the location of timber sales and actions within the sales.

Impacts from Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands Management

Objectives are generally consistent across alternatives within the planning area, thus impacts would be consistent on public health and safety. Improved riparian and wetland conditions would help protect AMLs and other hazardous materials sites and thus have a positive impact on public health and safety. Wetlands and good riparian conditions aid in removing and storing contaminants. Many AML/HM sites have limited vegetation, so improving riparian and wetland conditions may have a positive impact on public health and safety. Improving watershed conditions could help protect sites, like contaminated floodplains.

Alternative A does not address monitoring of nonfunctional and functional at-risk areas to detect upward or downward trends. Alternative B has the least potential to protect public health and safety compared to the other alternatives by striving to achieve PFC for a smaller percentage of riparian and wetland areas across the CdA FO (50 percent versus 75 percent for Alternatives A, C and D).

Impacts from Vegetation – Nonforested Management

Many AML/HM sites have limited vegetation, so improving nonforested conditions may have a positive impact on public health and safety. Improving watershed conditions helps to protect sites, like contaminated floodplains. Alternative A would promote plant community vigor and soil stability to improve watershed conditions. Alternative A has the least potential of the alternatives to protect AMLs, hazardous materials sites, and public safety. Alternative B, C, and D would restore herbaceous plant communities within their site potential and not rely on the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health*. Alternatives C and D specify actively preventing off-road motorized and mechanical vehicle access/use and would thereby be more protective of public health and safety by preserving foliated cover and preventing ground disturbance.

Impacts from Vegetation – Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management

While invasive species and noxious weed control would typically occur in and around these types of sites, one possible short-term effect is that weed species could also provide initial surface stabilization in poor or disturbed soils where other more desirable species of flora refuse to grow. The removal of such invasive and noxious weed species without implementation of other rehabilitation and protection measures for native plant species could lead to continued soil erosion and sedimentation in watersheds, and could require longer periods to successfully restore sites.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife and Special Status Species Management

Restoration of aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats for fish and wildlife through INFISH/CNFISH, including for special status species, would include maintaining/restoring watersheds and the protection of and enhancement of riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Such actions would have indirect effects on efforts to improve public health and safety by protecting and improving water resources.

Protection measures for special status species (i.e., bald eagle, gray wolf, white sturgeon) could conflict with cleanup and remediation activities if equipment, methods or other human disturbances would directly or indirectly impact such species and their habitats during sensitive periods of the year (i.e., nesting, denning, spawning). Impacts on public health and safety would be short-term with remediation and cleanup actions

continuing at the conclusion of these sensitive periods. Continued cooperative participation in recovery and management plans and conservation strategies would reduce potential conflicts.

Seasonal and proposed road closures along with the obliteration of roads following project completion to protect big game habitat would restrict potential access to AML and other hazard sites, thus improving public safety.

A number of bat species are considered sensitive, and their presence in abandoned mines and adits require evaluations of the open mines and possible bat gating. There are both benefits to special status wildlife and public health and safety when such openings are closed to protect roosts and hibernacula, and restricting public access.

Impact from special status plants would usually not impact public health and safety. Similar to aquatic and terrestrial species, continued cooperative participation in special status plant recovery and management plans and conservation strategies would reduce potential conflicts.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Wildland fire management would reduce impacts on public health and safety by reducing fire potentials and the likelihood that the public and BLM employees would be injured by wildfire. Fire management plans and procedures to protect valuable resources would also affect AML/HM sites where greater protection would be necessary in the more populated areas, such as the WUI.

Impacts from Cultural Resources Management

Impacts from cultural resources would have some impacts on public health and safety where the preservation old mine features and structures may also present a threat to public safety. Part of the public health and safety effort is to protect cultural values, when possible, while undertaking cleanups. However, public health and safety must try to minimize hazards and risks at sites on public lands. AML inventory and collection of historical information both help identify AML and physical hazards that could require mitigation, but could also conflict with goals to protect cultural resources.

Impacts from Minerals Management

The minerals program is likely to impact public health and safety and the efforts of the AML and HMM programs. Based on the previous mineral extraction activities that have occurred within the CdA FO, it should seem readily apparent that these activities generally have undesirable outcomes on water quality, soil quality and conversely impact public health and safety. Offering less acreage for these activities would compliment the goals of the AML/HMM program. Alternatives A and B involve more area (91,394 acres) open to the operation of mining laws than Alternatives C (67,024) and D (91,367). Thus there is more potential for areas to be mined, and more potential for impacts.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Increased recreational demand and utilization of public lands would increase the likelihood that the public would come into contact with AML or other hazardous sites that have not yet been inventoried and/or remediated. The Recreation program intends to provide better road access to public lands and motorized boat access. Enhanced opportunities for water based leisure activities would increase use and disturbance of floodplain, lakeshore, and lake bottom sediments by boat traffic, where contaminated sediments from toxic metals are present. This could have negative impacts on public health and safety and environmental health. Disturbance of floodplain, lakeshore, and lake bottom sediments may mobilize precipitated toxic metal constituents and lead to a decrease in water quality. The decrease in water quality is likely to effect public

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safety and have injurious effects on aquatic species and in turn have injurious effects on the wildlife that consume water and the tainted aquatic species from these areas.

Increased utilization of public lands would likely intensify the need to regularly assess recreation facilities and use areas for safety hazards. Increased utilization of public lands would increase the likelihood that the public will come into contact with AML or other hazard sites. Increased use and contact around AML and hazard sites would likely have a negative impact on public health and safety.

The objectives and goals of the recreation program could have impacts on public health and safety and environmental health across alternatives with regards to AMLs and other hazard sites. However, there is a contradictory argument that recreation plans and SRMAs have positive impacts on public health and safety and that recreation planning and restrictions within these plans should help protect the public from AML and hazardous material sites. Recreation programs assist in collecting solid waste, which mitigates illicit solid waste dumping. Recreation program maintenance, signage, and information efforts could help reduce exposure to physical hazards and other types of hazard sites.

The mixture of acreages for different SMRAs across alternatives makes the most protective alternative of public health and safety difficult to discern. Alternatives A and B have SMRAs for Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Lower Coeur d'Alene River areas. Alternatives C and D have a SMRA for the Killarney Lake area, which would be BLM's main management area in the Lower Coeur d'Alene River area. Alternatives B and D include an SMRA for the Silver Valley, and Alternatives B, C, and D include the Rochat Divide/Pine Creek SRMA. Overall, Alternative B would best cover the identified area for public safety planning needs compared to the other alternatives. Alternative A has the Lake and Lower CDA River areas but not the upper mining site areas. Alternative C does not include the upper Silver Valley area and only the Killarney part of the Lower CDA River. Alternative D is nearly the same as Alternatives B with only the Killarney part of the Lower CDA River.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Impacts from renewable energy program could impact AMLs, HM sites, and public health and safety through improving access and ground disturbing activities from the location of wind energy sites and acquisition of biomass. Protection of public health and safety would continue, however, as right-of-way grants would not be issued in areas that would jeopardize remediation activities.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

The transportation and travel management program could impact public health and safety through inadvertently providing access to hazard sites and producing ground disturbing activity. Alternatives B, C and D would implement OHV restrictions to protect public health and safety. OHV use would be restricted such that AML and HM sites areas should not be driven over or accessed except by existing roads. Protection and/or restriction of the general public to public lands where hazardous materials remain could prevent the disturbance and/or vandalism of remediation actions and events. Protective membranes and/or earthen caps may be damaged by OHV or other vehicular traffic. Remediation equipment and instrumentation, such as pipes, bioreactors, and flow meters may also be damaged by firearms. Preventing off-road motorized and mechanical vehicle access/use would protect the public health and safety by also preserving herbaceous cover and preventing ground disturbance.

Restriction of access to remediated AMLs and other HM sites would allow the AML and HMM programs to focus on addressing new hazard sites rather than repairing damage at sites where remediation measures have already been employed. Not authorizing the use of, or potential for, hazardous materials on public lands

would likely be the best means of safeguarding human health, preventing environmental damage, and limiting BLM liability from hazards, regardless of whether the uses comply with state and federal regulations.

Alternatives C and D would close to motorized vehicles significant HM sites (in C those proposed as ACECs) to protect the sites and the public health and safety values. Alternative D would also close the areas where there are closed/remediated sites with potentially hazardous substances remaining to protect their site values.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

Lands and realty could impact public health and safety through inadvertently providing access to hazard sites, producing ground disturbing activity on or proximal to hazard sites, or encouraging development near hazard sites. Public lands with hazardous materials would only be limitedly exchanged or otherwise adjusted to protect long-term public health because of existing policies and regulations.

Alternative A would be the least protective of public health and safety by not specifying any acreages under the ROW exclusion and ROW avoidance designations.

Alternative B appears to be more protective of public health and safety than A by offering acreages similar to Alternatives C and D under the ROW exclusion designation, but would be less protective than Alternative C which offers approximately twice the acreage under the ROW avoidance designation. Alternative B recognizes that land exchange or disposal would require that such actions occur only with Potentially Responsible Parties. With Alternative D, about 149 acres scattered in and near known sites with significant known hazardous materials would be closed to motorized vehicles when appropriate.

Alternative D appears to be more protective of public health and safety than A by offering acreages similar to Alternatives B and C under the ROW Exclusion designation, but is less protective than Alternative C which offers approximately twice the acreage under the ROW Avoidance designation.

Impacts from Special Designations

There are no special designations that would directly affect public health and safety sites under Alternative A and B. Under Alternative C designation of the Constitution Mine and Mill Site, Liberal King Mine Site, Hecla-Star Tailings Pile, Motherlode Mine, Nabob Millsite, Rex Millsite Tailings Pile, Sidney Mine and Millsite, Wallace Landfill, We-Like Mine, and Killarney Lake as ACECs would protect the public from natural hazards. The Pulaski Tunnel would protect the public from natural hazards as a public interpretation site. Designations would make these ACECs an NSO-1 and ROW avoidance areas that would ensure that no surface disturbing activities occur. Under Alternative D, only the Pulaski Tunnel site would be protected. Compared to Alternatives A, B and D, Alternative C would provide the most long-term protection for public health and safety.

Tribal Interests

The BLM, as a governmental agency, maintains a special government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes. Members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Kalispel Tribe, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, and the Kootenai Tribe exercise their hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on federal lands outside the boundaries of their reservations, including public lands within the planning area. These pursuits include fishing for resident game fish species, hunting large and small game, and gathering natural resources for subsistence and cultural purposes. It is expected that the demand from Native Americans to exercise their treaty rights on public lands will continue and potentially increase. Given these conditions, the Tribes could affect public health and safety across alternatives if access increases possible exposure to hazard sites while in the pursuit of collection of food, fiber and other culturally and religiously

significant resources. Culturally significant sites could also directly or indirectly conflict with identified hazardous sites and management actions. The ability to carry out mitigation measures and secure hazardous materials sites for public health safety would likely be resolved as BLM has a long-standing relationship with the Tribes or cooperative efforts like that with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund and NRDA efforts. The impact on public health from Native American tribal uses would, then, be short-term overall.

4.5.2.3 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts to public safety generally stem primarily from activities in the planning area that improve access and cause disturbance of the ground surface in areas containing hazardous materials. Cumulative impacts to public safety are mitigated by management actions that specify surface use restrictions, such as: closures, withdrawals, no surface occupancy (NSO), and from seasonal restrictions. Protective buffers, special designations, and avoidance areas also help to mitigate cumulative impacts to public safety. The activities that lead to cumulative impacts on public safety in the CdA FO and CFO would appear to be interrelated and synergistic: increased access leads to greater likelihood of exposure to chemical and physical hazards that may be present and to increased ground disturbance, which in turn destabilizes AML and hazardous materials sites further diminishing public safety.

Actions and plans with cumulative impacts not protective of public safety

The continuance of land tenure actions that consolidate BLM-administered lands would lead to the exchange of lands proximal to AML, hazardous material sites, and other hazard sites. The exchange of lands proximal to hazard sites is anticipated to increase as consolidation of holdings progresses.

Domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, and horses) have grazed and will continue to graze most of the area, including BLM-administered lands, Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Reservation lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and Clearwater, Payette, Nez Perce, and Idaho Panhandle National Forest lands. Livestock grazing increases access, causes ground disturbance, and reduces foliage and thereby impinges on hazardous sites.

Timber has been harvested on and is harvested on: private lands, State of Idaho lands, BLM-administered lands, and National Forest lands. Despite the decline in timber sales from National Forests in Idaho and the possible further decline in timber sales in the foreseeable future, logging will continue on public lands, albeit at a reduced rate, and on private lands at a projected increasing rate in both the CdA FO and Cottonwood planning areas. The continuance of logging activities would likely result in future access and ground disturbance on or around AMLs, hazardous materials sites, and other hazards sites.

Future increased hard rock mining activity in the Silver Valley of the planning area would impact public safety primarily through a further decrease in water quality from mine site runoff. Hard rock mining has greatly decreased in the Silver Valley as a function of commodity prices; only two silver-based metal mines continue to operate at a low level. A renewal of large scale mining for silver in the Silver Valley would appear to be unlikely in the foreseeable future. However, the abundance of AMLs and mining affected lands in BLM holdings, the holdings of other federal agencies, the holdings of state agencies, and private holdings will continue to contribute toxic metals to the Coeur d'Alene Basin watershed into the foreseeable future and impact public safety.

Development of various industrial minerals in the planning area, including sand, gravel, and dimension stone is expected to continue to expand or contract in response to urban growth and construction in Idaho. Development of industrial minerals and/or saleables can impact public safety through increasing access,

ground disturbing activity, fugitive dust, and creation of physical hazards. Runoff from industrial mineral sites may cause sedimentation of nearby stream features and affect the reproduction of aquatic species. Petroleum products would be required to run mineral extraction equipment and hazardous substances may be utilized to service said equipment. The increased presence of heavy trucks on secondary roads in the CdA FO required to transport saleable minerals may also be a public safety issue.

Past exploration activity in the CdA FO and CFO for oil and gas, geothermal, and solid leaseables (both energy and nonenergy) has been low. The potential for these resources is also deemed to be low. Future prospecting for these resources may impact public safety by improving access and creating ground disturbance.

Road construction associated with timber harvesting and mining on BLM-administered lands, private lands, State of Idaho lands, and Clearwater, Payette, Nez Perce, and Idaho Panhandle National Forest lands has recently slowed due to less harvesting and mining activity on National Forest and BLM lands when compared with the recent past. However, this activity is expected to continue at a steady rate on BLM-administered and National Forest lands and at an unknown rate on private and State of Idaho lands. Road construction has a generally negative impact on public safety by causing ground disturbance and increasing access and the likelihood that the public will come into contact with hazards. Increased access may also lead to an increase in illicit dumping of materials, both of the hazardous and relatively innocuous solid waste varieties.

The continuing increase in Idaho's population impacts public safety by increasing the number of people that would visit BLM-administered lands and encounter the chemical and physical hazards that are present; increasing the number of people that can cause ground disturbance, either by foot travel or vehicular traffic; and increasing the number of people that may engage in illicit disposal activities. The impacts to public safety from population growth are greater for the CdA than for the Cottonwood planning area; the CdA FO has seen more than three times the rate of population growth between 1990 and 2000, 41 percent versus 13 percent. This trend is anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future. In the Cottonwood planning area, population is projected to grow 11 percent from 2000 to 2020, while the population of the CdA planning area is projected to grow 36 percent, closer to the overall percentage for the State of Idaho of 35 percent.

Increased recreation use increases the likelihood that AMLs, hazardous material sites, and other hazard sites will be encountered by motorized off-road vehicle users, mountain bikers, hikers, hunters, and other outdoor recreational enthusiasts in both the CdA and Cottonwood planning areas. Recreation has increased, and use patterns and motorized technology have changed. Recreation-related visits to Idaho are estimated to continue to increase at an annual rate of one to four percent (Tetra Tech Inc. 2005a, 2005d). Recreational activities will continue to contribute to soil impacts by foot traffic and off-road vehicle use. An increase in the use of developed recreation sites and campgrounds is likely as the population increases, which will also likely lead to an increase in illicit dumping activity and potentially to an increase in releases of petroleum products and hazardous materials.

Noxious weed invasion is increasing and will continue, with potentially increasing treatment efforts. Noxious weed treatment efforts may impact public safety by disturbing AMLs and hazardous material sites, which frequently lack good vegetative cover and have infestations of noxious weeds. Use of chemical treatments, such as herbicides, to control noxious weeds also raises human and environmental health issues.

Actions and plans with potentially mixed impacts to public safety

Hazardous fuels reduction, wildland-urban interface actions and events, and activities that develop defensible space under the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan would be protective of

public safety by protecting the public from wildfire. However, such activities can cause ground disturbance and erosion around AMLs and other hazard sites and lead to site instability. Fuels treatments, including prescribed fire and mechanical treatment methods and wildland fire use, is expected to increase. Hazard to the public from prescribed fire will be mitigated by following all guidelines and regulations, including public notices and meetings.

The development and implementation of the Forest Service/BLM Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project/Strategy (ICBEMP) would be protective of public safety by maintaining and promoting healthy, productive, and diverse ecosystems and by restoring areas that are degraded. Development of a coordinated multiscale and interagency approach to planning and decision making should also be protective of public safety by expediting the improvement of watersheds and ensuring that AML and other hazard site are avoided. Repatterning succession and disturbance regimes to reduce events such as uncharacteristically large and severe wildland fires would also be protective of public safety.

However, restoration of natural hydrologic process and disturbance patterns in watersheds, such as presumably unmanaged seasonal flooding, under the ICBEMP could potentially have a short-term impact public safety and environmental health by allowing stream and floodplain sediments that contain toxic metals to be mobilized. This is more of a concern in the CdA FO with regards to the Silver Valley and Lower Coeur d'Alene River.

The development of integrated weed management strategies under the ICBEMP may impact public safety. Noxious weed treatment efforts may impact public safety by disturbing AML and hazardous material sites, which frequently have infestations of noxious weeds. Use of chemical treatments, such as herbicides, to control noxious weeds also raises human and environmental health issues.

The Coeur d'Alene RMP would protect public health and safety by outlining assessment, mitigation, and corrective protocols for AML, hazardous material, and other hazard sites, which were absent in the original Emerald Empire MFP (1981). The specification of these protocols would generally protect public safety across the alternatives considered by providing specific future management for these items. However, the management protocols for some of the other resource areas, such as Recreation, Transportation and Travel Management, would appear to be less protective of public safety across alternatives.

The completion of Forest Plan Revisions for various National Forests would protect public safety by establishing management direction for new initiatives such as the National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Initiative and to concerns about listed species, habitat restoration, and commodity production. The revised Forest Plans differs from the original plans in that they emphasize restoring or maintaining vegetation and watershed conditions and focus on the ecological condition of the forests rather than commodity production. However, management direction for recreation, forest products, and livestock grazing may conflict with the protection of public safety by improving access and creating ground disturbance.

Actions and plans that are protective of public safety that may mitigate cumulative impacts to public safety

The anticipated increased federal and state agency conservation efforts to preserve some declining populations of fish and wildlife species in the Pacific Northwest would likely assist in mitigating some cumulative impacts to public safety through improvement of watersheds, aquatic habitats, and restriction of access to sensitive areas. Listings under the Endangered Species Act would also assist in mitigating impacts to public safety by preserving habitat and limiting access.

Air quality in the planning areas is seasonally affected by agricultural field burning and wildland fires. Particulate matter standards may impact the methods by which AML and hazardous materials sites are cleaned up in terms of the creation of fugitive dust and prescribed removal of structurally hazardous wooden mine structures by means of fire.

Water quality has a direct impact on public safety. Human activities, such as timber harvesting, livestock grazing, agriculture, OHV use, and mining (especially in the Silver Valley within the planning area) have contributed to water quality limited streams and will continue to contribute to poor water quality in some streams. The establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) by the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for some 303(d) water quality limited streams in the CdA and Cottonwood planning areas would be protective of public safety and environmental health.

The restriction of access to BLM lands by some private landowners would be generally protective of public safety by not allowing the public to come into contact with chemical and physical hazards that may be present. The restriction of access by private landowners to BLM lands is likely to increase, while the demand for access to public lands has increased and will continue to increase with growth in population and recreational use.

4.5.3 Native American Trust and Interests

4.5.3.1 Methods of Analysis

Objectives and actions could impact Native American interests if they result in changes to tribal treaty rights/trust resources, ethnographic resources, access to TCPs, preservation of archaeological sites, the handling of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) materials, or the maintenance of suitable habitat for subsistence species of importance to tribes.

Because tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities are primarily related to natural and cultural resource programs, it is appropriate to consider indicators of change used by those programs to determine potential change to treaty rights and trust responsibilities. In addition, consultation is also necessary because indicators for tribal issues associated with these resources may be different from those used in other measures of impact. Some specific indicators include changes in the following:

- Availability, access, or land use that would affect the natural resource base used by the tribes, including fish, game, plants, minerals, and springs;
- Access to or impacts on cultural resource sites, including ethnographic resources and traditional cultural properties;
- General ecosystem health, water quality, and riparian function; and
- Land tenure or land use that could impair future exercise of treaty rights.

4.5.3.2 Impacts

Impacts from Vegetation—Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds Management

By focusing on limiting ground-disturbing activities, the weeds management program under all the alternatives could result in a long-term effect on tribal uses by minimizing the possibilities for impacts on cultural and ethnographic resources and TCPs.

Impacts from Soils Management

Under all alternatives soils management would aim to limit soil erosion and surface disturbances. This would result in a long-term effect through the enhancement and preservation of cultural resource sites, ethnographic resources, and TCPs. In addition, measures under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) to work cooperatively with tribes would help ensure preservation of traditional uses.

Impacts from Water Resources Management

Under all alternatives, effects from Water Resources Management could include direct risks to cultural resource sites and access to ethnographic resources and TCPs. Actions to restore watersheds could include risks of directly disturbing cultural resources through ground-disturbing activities, a permanent impact. Such actions could also result in temporary loss of access to ethnographic resources or TCPs, a short-term impact. Watershed improvements that reduce erosion could enhance site preservation, while improvements in water quality could enhance traditional cultural uses.

Impacts from Vegetation—Forest and Woodland Management

Under all alternatives, restoring historic forest species composition could, in the long-term, improve culturally significant plant and animal habitat and reduce erosion of cultural resources and TCPs in the restored areas. However there could also be long-term impacts due to changes in setting and short-term impacts due to

temporary loss of access to TCPs or other culturally significant areas during treatment or closures. Long-term impacts on tribal use of CdA FO public lands could result from ground disturbance associated with treatment programs. Potential for impacts would correspond with treated acres. Alternative A would treat forest vegetation on 7,000 acres for these purposes. Alternative B would increase treatments by 37 percent. Alternative C would reduce treatments 83 percent reduction, while D would increase treatments 17 percent.

Impacts from Vegetation—Riparian and Wetlands Management

Under all alternatives, achieving proper functioning condition for riparian and wetland vegetation could enhance riparian function and general ecosystem health. This could improve tribal use of TCPs and ethnographic resources. Alternatives A, C, and D set an objective of 75 percent PFC, while Alternative B sets an objective of only 50 percent. Thus Alternative B would have less potential for impact than the other alternatives.

Impacts from Vegetation—Nonforested Management

Under all alternatives, maintaining native species within nonforested vegetation could result in long-term effects on tribal uses through enhancement of native plant species and environment. Under Alternative C, actively preventing off-road vehicle use in nonforested vegetation could reduce the possibility for ground disturbances in and around TCPs, ethnographic resource areas, and cultural resource sites.

Impacts from Fish and Wildlife Management

There could be long-term effects associated with enhancing culturally significant plant and animal habitat through restoration of various habitats. Short-term impacts could occur from loss of access and alterations of setting during treatment or seasonal closures. Under Alternative B there is an additional emphasis on measures to promote commodity and recreational species. These include species that have been fished or hunted traditionally, and these actions could result in a moderate enhancement of opportunities to continue cultural use. Minor short-term impacts could occur from loss of access and alterations of setting during treatment or seasonal closures.

Under all alternatives, road closures could reduce the potential for direct disturbance of TCPs and cultural resources, as well as potential vandalism and unauthorized collecting. However, the limited access could represent an impact on tribal use of and access to the same areas.

Impacts from Special Status Species Management

Under all alternatives, measures that reduce incompatible uses of specific regions in order to preserve special status species under Alternative A would have long-term effects on TCPs and on cultural and ethnographic resources by enhancing the natural resource base and general ecosystem health. Additionally, reducing the potential for ground-disturbing actions, erosion, alterations to setting, incompatible use, and vandalism could result in long-term improvements to tribal resources. Short-term impacts could result if tribes were not allowed to access TCPs or ethnographic resource areas. The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) have more specific direction for management of special status species habitat, which would increase the potential for impacts.

Impacts from Wildland Fire Management

Under all alternatives, wildland fire could directly disturb TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resources by destroying or modifying them, creating long-term impacts on tribal uses. Fire could also result in impacts through erosion and the increased visibility of cultural resources and TCPs. Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D), Rochat Divide is within a fire suitability area, and fire could directly impact the Rochat Divide TCP.

4.5.3 Native American Trust and Interests

Cultural resources, ethnographic resource areas, and TCPs flagged for fire avoidance in prescribed burns can be susceptible to unauthorized collection and vandalism, resulting in long-term permanent impacts. Prescribed burns and closure restrictions could also result in short-term impacts if tribal access to resources are limited or otherwise restrained. Fire management and suppression activities can involve major ground-disturbing activities that can also create long term or permanent impacts on cultural resources, ethnographic resources, and TCPs.

Stipulations for fire management address a range of cultural and ethnographic resource concerns associated with wildfire use, fire suppression, prescribed fire, nonfire treatments, and restoration activities. However, it is not possible to identify all resources, and some effects cannot be avoided.

All alternatives call for repairing or improving fire-damaged lands through rehabilitation as quickly as possible. This could limit the time tribes may be affected by the loss of ethnographic resources and culturally significant plant species.

Additionally, under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D), application of MIST in special designation areas could provide additional protection for TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resources.

Compared to Alternatives A and B, direction for fire management under Alternatives C and D address a broader range of cultural and ethnographic resource concerns associated with wildfire use, fire suppression, prescribed fire, nonfire treatments, and restoration activities, but identification of all resources is not possible, and some effects cannot be avoided. The use of fuels treatment actions and events to improve or protect noncommercial natural resources, not necessarily culturally valuable resources, could result in long-term, moderate to minor impacts by changing the availability and access to TCPs and cultural and ethnographic resources. Proper adherence to guidelines and regulations will reduce or eliminate impacts.

Impacts from Cultural Resources Management

Under all alternatives, cultural resource management measures would preserve and protect cultural resources and TCPs and would help ensure that they are available for Native American tribal uses. Such actions could result in long-term improvements on tribal uses. Impacts from proposed land use authorizations would be minimized or avoided by compliance with laws and executive orders designed to preserve and protect cultural resources and TCPs. Limiting motorized vehicle use to designated roads in the Rochat Divide area would help maintain and enhance the quality of that identified TCP. Complying with management measures for authorized actions requires consulting with federally recognized tribes, which could help identify and minimize impacts on TCPs and ethnographic resources.

Additional actions under Alternative B could enhance tribal use of the planning area with the following:

- Development of a long-term monitoring schedule for and annual examinations of TCPs could provide long-term moderate effects by providing additional protection for such Native American resources. Similarly, the development of cultural heritage education programs could provide additional protection of TCPs and other Native American resources.
- Designation of no surface occupancy for leasable minerals along the Rochat Divide ridge system and developing a management plan for that area could provide specific protection and maintenance of the Rochat Divide TCP and maintain access to that location for tribes. Motorized vehicle use restricted

to roads in the Rochat Divide area could help maintain and enhance the quality of that identified TCP.

- Establishing new or implementing existing protocol agreements with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) for consultations could help to protect and maintain Native American TCPs, ethnographic resources, and tribal access.

In addition, Alternatives C and D would develop a management plan for the Rochat Divide area, which could provide specific protection and maintenance of the Rochat Divide TCP and maintain access for tribes to that location.

Impacts from Visual Resources Management

More restrictive VRM classes (VRM I and II) would protect the scenic quality and setting of TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resources. The potential for impact would correspond with the number of acres designated as VRM I and II. VRM I occurs only in WSAs, and is constant across alternatives, VRM II varies: 14,312 acres for Alternatives A and B, 42,273 acres for Alternative C (a 195 percent increase over current designations), and 23,551 acres for Alternative D (a 65 percent increase over current designations).

Impacts from Livestock Grazing Management

Allowing livestock grazing could result in impacts on tribal use of those areas. Livestock grazing and trampling, watering locations, corrals, and rangeland improvement designed primarily to benefit livestock could degrade the integrity and setting of cultural and ethnographic resources through direct disturbance and erosion. Also, use of the areas by livestock could preclude Native American access. Actions that improve rangeland management could reduce the potential for these impacts. Potential for impacts would correspond with the number of acres allocated to grazing. Under Alternatives A and B, 4,004 acres would be allocated, while under C and D, only 1,218 acres would be.

Impacts from Minerals Management

Potential impacts from mineral development include the following:

- Direct ground-disturbing activities and erosion;
- Intrusions to setting;
- Access, leading to unauthorized collection or vandalism; and
- Reduction in tribal access to closed areas.

Withdrawals from operation of mining laws could limit disturbances and impacts on cultural and ethnographic resources, while maintaining Native American access to those areas. In general, such withdrawals from mineral development would have a long-term effect on cultural resources by restricting surface disturbance and potentially incompatible uses. Potential for impacts would correspond with the number of acres withdrawn. Under alternatives A and B, 5,376 acres would continue to be withdrawn. Alternative C would withdraw an additional 24,370 acres. Alternative D would withdraw only 27 additional acres compared to current management.

Impacts from Recreation Management

Increased demand and use of BLM-managed resources for recreational and motorized vehicle use can affect TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resources through the following:

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- Direct disturbance;
- Soil compaction;
- Altered surface water drainage;
- Erosion and intrusions to setting; and
- Potential access, leading to unauthorized collection or vandalism.

Generally, impacts will be less when more intensive management is applied through special recreation management area (SRMA) designation, than when custodially managed within the extensive recreation management area ERMA. Thus potential for impacts would correspond with the number of acres within SRMAs. Currently there are 3,249 acres within SRMAs. Alternative B would increase this to 63,927 acres. Under Alternative C, 60,866 acres are within SRMAs, and Alternative D has the most with 79,151 acres within SRMAs. Thus Alternative D would reduce impacts more than any other alternative.

Impacts from Renewable Energy Management

Potential impacts from biomass development and operations would be the same as those described under Impacts from Vegetation – Forests and Woodlands Management.

Impacts from wind energy development could include:

- Direct ground-disturbing activities;
- Erosion;
- Intrusions to setting;
- Potential access, leading to unauthorized collection or vandalism; and
- Limited tribal access to closed areas.

Potential for impacts from wind energy dependent are the same as those regarding rights-of-way and use authorizations described under Impacts from Lands and Realty Management.

Impacts from Transportation and Travel Management

OHV use can affect cultural and ethnographic resources through direct disturbance, soil compaction, altered surface water drainage, erosion, intrusions to setting, and access, possibly leading to unauthorized collection or vandalism. Off-road motorized vehicle use, including snowmobiles, could also affect tribal use of areas by disrupting or precluding cultural or religious activities. Potential for impacts would correspond with the amount of area open to off-road use (see Table 4.5.3-1 below).

Restricting vehicle use to designated routes would reduce the risk of disturbing TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resource sites located off travel routes. Transportation access and maintenance of the road and trail networks can facilitate tribal access and traditional cultural uses but could also increase risk of impacts on resources by allowing public access that could lead to looting or vandalism. Area, road, or trail closures could restrict tribal access to affected portions of the planning area. These impacts would correspond with the miles of roads and trails designated, and miles of roads with seasonal or vehicle restrictions (see Table 4.5.3-1). Designation of Rochat Divide Road as a public road under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D)

Table 4.5.3-1 Transportation and Travel Management by Alternative

Travel Designation	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Open Travel Areas (acres)	63,041	0	0	0
Closed Travel Areas (acres)	162	162	311	631
Limited Travel Areas (acres)	33,567	96,608	96,459	96,139
Designated Roads/Trails (miles)	27	282	122	175
Roads/Trails with Seasonal or Vehicle Restrictions (miles)	14	113	69	68
Open to Off-road Snowmobile (acres)	66,949	64,157	0	63,373

could provide additional funding for protection of the identified TCP in that area, the increased public recognition of the area could pose a risk through increased public use, alterations in setting, and possible vandalism.

Impacts from Lands and Realty Management

The retention of existing, or acquisition of new land with TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resource sites would provide for long-term federal protection and could enhance currently managed resources by consolidating holdings. Conversely, exchange or adjustment of such lands would permanently remove federal protections for resources and the opportunity to exercise tribal treaty rights in the future. The removal of federal protections is an impact under the NHPA, which would be addressed and resolved in the Section 106 process prior to adjustment. BLM would consider impacts on significant cultural resource sites and areas of importance to Native Americans, such as ethnographic resources and TCPs prior to adjusting any lands. While consultation with Native American Tribes is standard procedure when considering land exchange or adjustment, the action alternatives add more emphasis by specifically requiring such consultation.

ROW use authorizations would have potential to allow uses that may be incompatible with the preservation of cultural and ethnographic resources and maintenance of TCPs or could hinder tribal access. Current management does not specify any specific restrictions on ROW authorizations or use permits. However, Alternative B identifies 21,636 acres of ROW exclusions, in which issuance of use authorizations would not be allowed, and 23,586 acres of ROW avoidance areas, in which authorizations would only be allowed when there was no other practical location. Alternative C identifies 21,819 acres of ROW exclusions and 46,273 acres of ROW avoidance areas. Alternative D identifies 22,069 acres of ROW exclusions and 11,274 acres of ROW avoidance areas.

Impacts from Special Designations Management

Special designations and area-specific management plans can directly or indirectly provide long-term protection of tribal access, TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resource sites by restricting incompatible uses. Development of new recreational activity areas, such as NRTs, can affect tribal use of TCPs, ethnographic resources, and cultural resource sites by direct disturbance, intrusions to setting, and public access that could lead to unauthorized collection or vandalism.

Alternative A: Hideaway Islands ACEC/RNA (76 acres) and Lund Creek ACEC/RNA (2,905 acres) would be managed in a nondestructive and nonmanipulative manner to protect their unique resources. This could maintain the natural setting of those areas and any cultural or ethnographic resources located in those areas. Lund Creek RNA falls completely within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, where activities that could cause impacts are already not allowed. Thus, designation of the Lund Creek RNA would have no effect, unless the WSA was released by Congress. Indefinite protective management of five stream segments, totaling 28 miles

(3,495 acres of protected lands within 1/4 mile of these segments), which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation would maintain and protect the natural resource base of those areas, preserving and enhancing current tribal uses of those areas. However, eligible segments include 14 miles of the Kootenai River, along which BLM has only scattered ownership (less than 500 acres within the 1/4 mile buffer). Of the remaining protected corridors, all but about 300 acres fall within the Grandmother Mountain WSA, which is already protected. Thus, protection of eligible segments would have little impact, unless the WSA was released by Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of Hideaway Islands and Lund Creek as ACEC/RNAs would have the same impact as described under Alternative A. However, Alternative B identifies all eligible Wild and Scenic River segments as nonsuitable. Therefore they would not receive special management attention. Also, cultural and scenic values of the Rochat Divide TCP area would be protected through designation as a back country byway to highlight and provide opportunities for motorists to visit with and experience natural and semiprimitive settings. Although this designation would provide extended federal protection of the tribal value and cultural resource sites of the Rochat Divide area, the increased public knowledge of the area and its location could represent an impact on tribal use of that TCP through increased public access that could lead to vandalism or looting, ground disturbances, erosion, and changes in setting.

Alternative C: This alternative would protect existing water quality through designation of 19 additional ACECs, totaling an additional 23,275 acres. However, 18,065 of these additional acres are within the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs, so no additional protection would truly be afforded. Cultural and scenic values of the Rochat Divide TCP area (outside of Crystal Lake WSA) would be protected through designation as an ACEC and specific resource protection measures. The area would also be designated a back country byway to highlight and provide opportunities for motorists to visit and experience natural and semiprimitive settings. Although these designations would provide extended federal protection of the tribal value and cultural resource sites of the Rochat Divide area, the increased public knowledge of the area and its location could represent an impact on tribal use of that TCP through increased public access that could lead to vandalism or looting, ground disturbances, erosion, and changes in setting. Also, all five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments were found suitable under this alternative, affording them the same protection as under Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative designates three additional ACECs and makes boundary adjustments on Lund Creek RNA, totaling an additional 377 acres of ACEC/RNAs (all outside of WSAs) compared to current management. These designations would afford a corresponding slight increase in protection of tribal uses. Wild and Scenic River segment protection is identical to Alternatives A, and C, with four suitable and one eligible segments.

Impacts from Social and Economic Management

Native American Tribal Uses

Under all alternatives, improvements to the natural and cultural resource conditions of the CdA RMP planning area could enhance tribal use of the area by preserving and sustaining culturally significant plants, animals, and locations, including TCPs. Consulting with appropriate tribes would ensure that culturally significant species and locations receive the necessary federal protection.

Public Health and Safety

Under all alternatives, actions taken to protect the public from hazards such as the removal of historic structures or removal of hazardous materials may affect the integrity of cultural resources by their removal or by ground disturbances. Tribal use of those resources could also be affected by their removal or other alterations. Tribal access could be restricted during cleanup activities. However, inventorying AML could provide a better understanding of the cultural resources within the planning area, thereby enhancing protection of cultural resource sites. Under the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D), consideration of the State and Tribe's Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan during recreation planning around Coeur d'Alene Lake could ensure that tribal concerns for that area are considered in the planning process, maintaining tribal use of and access to that area.

4.5.3.3 Cumulative Effects

Alternative A: Under Alternative A, the management of the CdA FO would remain the same, but the above listed actions would continue to occur. Although tribal treaty rights and use of BLM public lands would remain the same under current CdA FO management, the rights of the five tribes with interests within the CdA FO to retain access to and use of resources on public lands within their original territory could be affected by many of the above listed actions. In addition to the cumulative effects discussed below, cumulative effects on cultural resources and the natural/biological resource base used by the tribes are considered effects on tribal use as well.

Access and use of natural and cultural resources on public lands could be limited by land tenure adjustments that reduce public land holdings, wildfires and suppression techniques, and increases in mineral development. Similarly, the expected increase in private landownership could make tribal access to portions of northern Idaho increasingly difficult. Increased road construction could improve access, but also contribute to public access that could lead to increased vandalism and looting. The decrease in demand for livestock grazing permits could open areas to tribal use and allow better tribal access to culturally significant resources. Continued tribal coordination efforts and local management plan revisions could insure tribes retain or gain access to culturally significant areas.

The availability of ethnographic resources could be affected by limited access as well as fluctuations in species populations. Wildfires, plant diseases and insect infestations, noxious weed invasions, increases in human populations, projected declines in native trout populations, and limited and poor water quality streams could reduce the number of plant and animal species available for hunting and collecting for cultural or subsistence purposes. Similarly listing new species under the Endangered Species Act and increasing federal and state agency conservation efforts could further limit the availability of such ethnographic resources, especially for those tribes without specific treaty rights to hunt or collect those species. However, the expected decline in or continued demand for livestock grazing permits, timber harvesting, and mining development combined with the continued tribal coordination efforts and revised regional management plans could balance these effects by improving the natural resource base used by the tribes and preserving or returning ethnographic resource areas for tribal use.

TCPs and other culturally significant areas could also be impacted by increased size and occurrence of wildfires, fire suppression techniques, fuels treatment programs, changes in the natural resource base brought about by insect and disease activity, invasive noxious weed species, or other regional management plans, road construction, increases in human populations and demand for recreation opportunities. Such actions could increase the likelihood for tribal access to TCPs to be temporarily impeded, the setting of TCPs and other cultural sites are disrupted, vandalism at TCPs and culturally significant areas, ethnographic resources to be

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reduced or removed from traditional areas, and ground disturbances that could eliminate traditional areas or impact the integrity of TCPs. However actions, such as the development of regional management programs and the projected reduction in livestock grazing, timber harvesting, and mining, that restore or improve the natural resource base around TCPs or culturally significant areas could improve the setting of such locations and enhance their use. Continued tribal coordination efforts could continue to insure protection of specific areas from the above impacts.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B, cumulative effects on Native American tribal uses would be similar to Alternative A, but with increased risks that may limit tribal access, degrade ethnographic resources and natural resources used by the CdA FO tribes, and impact the integrity and setting of TCPs and traditional use areas. This increased risk would be caused by the focus of Alternative B on developing economically viable resources.

Alternative C: Under Alternative C, cumulative effects on Native American tribal uses would be similar to Alternative B, with similar increased risks that may limit tribal access, but less risk of degradation of ethnographic and natural resources and impacts on the integrity and setting of TCPs and traditional use areas. This increased risk would be caused by the focus of Alternative C on preserving and protecting natural resources.

Alternative D: Alternative D would balance the cumulative effects on Native American tribal uses under Alternatives B and C. Tribal access would be limited in some areas and more open in others due to implementation of Alternative D. Similarly ethnographic resources, TCPs, other culturally significant areas, and the natural resource base and ecosystem used by the tribes could experience improvements and impacts. The increased efforts for tribal consultation and input, compared to Alternative A, would insure this balance is maintained, specific areas of concern are addressed in the appropriate manner, and tribal access to areas and ethnographic resources is considered.

4.6 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Unavoidable adverse impacts are impacts that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures, or impacts for which there are no mitigation measures. Some unavoidable adverse impacts would occur as a result of proposed management under one or more of the alternatives. Others are a result of use of public lands within the planning area. Development of mineral resources could create visual intrusions, soil erosion, compaction problems, loss of vegetation cover, and damage or destruction of cultural resources. Unauthorized off-road vehicle travel could cause scarring, increased soil erosion, and loss of vegetation cover. Wildfire use could result in changes to the scenic quality of the landscape, the loss of habitat, and the loss of undiscovered cultural and paleontological resources. Vegetative treatments could cause displacement of wildlife, decreases in quantity and quality of forage, and loss of nontarget ecosystem components. Changes in the amount of recreational visitation and patterns of use could result in increased conflicts between users, vandalism, illegal collection of cultural resources, and unanticipated changes in resource conditions. Proposed restrictions on recreation, livestock operations, and other land use authorizations to protect sensitive resources and other values would lessen the ability of operators, permittees, individuals, and groups to use the public lands and could increase operating costs. Accidental or unauthorized introduction of exotic plant or animal species could result in harm or loss of populations of native plants or animals. Ecosystem components could be impacted if FRCC 2 and 3 areas are not treated prior to a high intensity wildfire. If fuels are not treated the risk of loss to life and property is higher as rural growth expands the wildland-urban interface. Virtually all potential unavoidable adverse impacts are indirect, long-term, and difficult to quantify.

4.7 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the effects this use could have on future generations. Irreversible effects primarily result from the use or destruction of a specific resource (e.g., energy and minerals) that cannot be replaced within a reasonable time frame. Irretrievable resource commitments involve the loss in value of an affected resource that cannot be restored as a result of the action (e.g., loss of special status species habitat or the disturbance of a cultural resource).

Mineral development would result in an irreversible loss of vegetation resources, habitat, and wildlife and livestock forage. Reclamation of disturbed areas would reduce the magnitude of these impacts following the action, but changes in migration patterns and displacement of local populations during the activities could cause an irreversible loss in localized wildlife populations. Irretrievable losses to visual characteristics near mining sites would occur during development and operation.

Each alternative could result in irretrievable loss of timber or other forest products due to wildland fire, insects and disease, or harvesting. Both activities would result in the long-term loss of these resources, although they would eventually be available again, so they are not irreversible. Road construction for timber management may cause an irreversible loss in wilderness character, and special designations that restrict commercial harvesting would cause an irretrievable commitment of the forest products resource.

Without vegetation treatments noxious weeds or invasive species may not be reasonably eradicated, resulting in an irreversible change in ecosystem health. Likewise, lands could further degrade, resulting in an irreversible loss in ecological functionality.

There would be no irretrievable or irreversible impacts on recreational resources if management restrictions were implemented effectively. Under Alternative A, where most of the CdA FO remains open for OHV use, there could be an irreversible impact on passive or wilderness experiences if OHV use continues to grow.

Undiscovered cultural resources may be affected by the alternatives. Compliance with management measures requires consultation with affected communities, the identification and evaluation of cultural resources, and adherence to procedures for resolving any adverse effects and mitigating impacts. Cultural resources are by their nature irreplaceable, so the alteration or elimination of any such resource, whether National Register-eligible or not, represents an irreversible and an irretrievable commitment.

The exact nature and extent of any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources cannot be defined due to uncertainties about location, scale, timing, and rate of implementation, as well as the relationship to other actions and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

4.8 RELATIONSHIP OF SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Section 102(C) of NEPA requires a discussion of the relationship between local short-term uses of the human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity of resources. As described in the introduction to this chapter, short term is defined as anticipated to occur within one to three years of implementation of the activity. Long term is defined as following the first three years of implementation but within the life of the RMP.

Regardless of which alternative is selected, management activities would result in various short-term effects, such as increased localized soil erosion, smoke and fugitive dust emissions, damage to vegetation and wildlife habitat, and decreased visual resource quality. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities, including mineral and energy development, dispersed recreation, livestock grazing, infrastructure development, vegetation treatments, and human use, would result in the greatest potential for impacts on long-term productivity. Management actions and best management practices minimize the effect of short-term uses and reverse the change during the long term. However, BLM lands are managed to foster multiple uses, and some long-term productivity impacts might occur regardless of management approach.

Maximizing short-term use of forage resources without an increase in long-term timber harvest rotation or other long-term vegetation treatments could result in the continued long-term buildup of large fuels. This could result in uncharacteristically intense wildland fires and longer fire-return intervals. However, some short-term forest product harvest (e.g., post and pole) would help reduce the long-term risk of intense and large wildland fires.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CHAPTER 5 – CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is a description of the public outreach and participation opportunities made available through the development of the draft RMP/EIS and the coordination and consultation efforts to date with tribes, government agencies, and other stakeholders. It includes a list of preparers of the document and the agencies, organizations, and individuals that received a copy of the draft RMP/EIS for review. There have been and will continue to be many ways for the public to participate in the planning process for public lands under the jurisdiction of the CdA FO.

5.2 PUBLIC COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

5.2.1 Scoping Process

Scoping for the RMP/EIS began on September 3, 2004. Scoping is the term used in the CEQ Regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 et seq.) to define the early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the planning process. The scoping process provides an avenue to involve the public in identifying significant issues related to potential land use management actions. The process also helps identify any issues that are not significant and that can thereby be eliminated from detailed analysis. The list of stakeholders and other interested parties is also confirmed and augmented during the scoping process.

5.2.1.1 Distribution List

The BLM prepared a newsletter detailing the scoping process and project issues and mailed them to just over 200 federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, and members of the public whose names were compiled from data kept by the CdA FO. The BLM updated the distribution list throughout the development of the RMP/EIS. The distribution list of the agencies, organizations, and individuals who have been a part of the RMP/EIS process is available in the administrative record. The BLM will send each of these groups or individuals a notice of availability and, upon request, the individuals will be sent either the summary of the draft RMP/EIS, the entire document, or the location of the Web site where the document may be viewed. The CdA FO maintains the distribution list, which is available on request.

5.2.1.2 Notice of Intent

The NOI is the legal document notifying the public of the BLM's intent to initiate the planning process and to prepare an EIS for a major federal action. The NOI invites the participation of the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public in determining the scope and significant issues to be addressed in the planning alternatives and analyzed in the EIS. The NOI for the CdA RMP was published in the *Federal Register* on September 3, 2004. The scoping period for receipt of public comments ended on November 15, 2004.

5.2.1.3 Press Releases

Local and regional newspapers and radio stations throughout the planning area were used to disseminate information on the CdA RMP scoping and planning process. The BLM prepared press releases and print advertisements announcing the official scoping meetings and inviting the public to provide input. The releases, mailed mid-October 2004, were newspaper advertisements and were provided to the following print and broadcast media:

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NEWSPAPERS	
Print Advertisement	General Press Release
<i>Coeur d'Alene Press</i> (Coeur d'Alene): October 8, 10, and 17, 2004	<i>Spokesman Review</i> (including the eastern Washington and northern Idaho editions)
<i>Spokesman Review</i> (Coeur d'Alene and Spokane, Washington): October 8, 10, and 18, 2004	<i>Coeur d'Alene Press</i> (including its affiliate northern Idaho papers)
<i>Nickel's Worth</i> (Coeur d'Alene): week of October 7, 2004	
<i>St. Maries Gazette</i> (St. Maries): October 17, 2004	
RADIO	
Bonniers Ferry, KBFI-AM 1450	Oldtown, KMJY-AM 700
Osburn, KWAL-AM 620	Coeur d'Alene, KVNI-AM 1080

5.2.1.4 Public Scoping Notice and Planning Criteria

The BLM prepared an initial newsletter regarding the CdA RMP project and mailed it on September 30, 2004. The BLM also made the scoping letter and briefing package available for public view on the Internet that same month.

The initial newsletter provided information on the public scoping process and the scheduled open house scoping meetings and background information on the purpose and need for the planning activity and identified need for change topics. Preliminary resource issues were identified and summarized, and preliminary planning criteria were also included. These serve as ground rules for the planning process and ensure that efforts are tailored to pertinent issues that will lead to the development of alternatives.

The notice invited the public to participate in the scoping process, to further develop issues and concerns to be addressed in the RMP based on the need for change topics, and to provide comment on the planning criteria. The newsletter included mailing and e-mail addresses to send comments to. The mailing list was compiled from data kept by the CdA FO staff and included over 200 entries.

5.2.1.5 Scoping Meetings

The BLM held public scoping meetings in Bonners Ferry on October 13, in St. Maries on October 14, in Sandpoint on October 20, in Coeur d'Alene on October 21, and in Wallace on October 25, 2004. The BLM provided the local media listed in the table above with press releases and people listed on the individual mailing list with newsletters announcing the time, location, and purpose of these meetings.

The format for the scoping meetings featured informal one-on-one presentations by interdisciplinary team members. Attendees signed a registration sheet as they entered, then team members escorted them to stations set up around the room, detailing the proposed action, resource issues, planning criteria, and a proposed schedule for completing the planning process. GIS inventory maps at stations highlighted various resources.

Following presentations, attendees were encouraged to mail in written comments and questions or to fill out comment cards specific to the CdA RMP. Copies of the initial newsletter were also made available at the comment table.

5.2.2 Project Web Site

The BLM maintains an interactive project Web site (<http://www.cdarmp.com>) to communicate with the public, collaborators, and BLM employees on the RMP/EIS process. The official Web site went online in September 2004, serving as a clearinghouse for project information. Materials on the Web site include such information as notices and general news regarding the project, the RMP/EIS, and meeting schedules, documents to be reviewed and commented on, and frequently asked questions and answers. Maps and photos

showing the planning area, appropriate land status, towns, rivers, highways, and other BLM-approved features are also posted. The BLM continuously updates the Web site with information, documents, and announcements. Some BLM Web sites are currently inaccessible, but once the BLM reinstates them, the Web site will be available for viewing.

5.2.3 Newsletters

Newsletters are published throughout the course of the RMP/EIS process and are posted on the BLM Web site. Participants also may request to receive newsletters through e-mail. The newsletters remind the public of how they can comment and get involved and include a calendar of events. Each edition addresses in detail issues of concern identified during the scoping process. The first newsletter was mailed on September 30, 2004. Newsletters to county commissioners and tribal representatives are mailed, with cover letters addressed to specific individuals. Additional newsletters were published at major project milestones and mailed to individuals and organizations on the project mailing list. This mailing list was updated following the scoping process based on requests from individuals wishing to be added to or removed from the list. All individuals who participated in the scoping meetings or who submitted a comment were also added to the list unless they opted out of receiving future distributions. The database was increased to just over 250 entries.

5.3 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The CdA RMP will provide guidance for a vast area of public land in northern Idaho and necessarily requires the coordination of a wide variety of organizations with interests in the area. Among those are governmental bodies that create, administer, and monitor policy for these, as well as adjacent, lands.

In January 2005, the BLM met with several interested state agencies to finalize partnering opportunities based on the level of vested interest these organizations have in the RMP planning process.

The benefits of enhanced collaboration among agencies in the preparation of NEPA analyses include disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process; applying available technical expertise and staff support; avoiding duplication with other federal, state, tribal, and local procedures; and establishing a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues.

To initiate the collaborative planning process, early in the scoping period, over 200 individuals from the public, agencies, and organizations were mailed newsletters. The newsletter introduced the BLM and the RMP planning process; provided the preliminary issues, planning criteria, and project milestones timeline; and suggested methods for public involvement. The newsletter also provided the prospective dates and venues for the five scoping meetings.

The BLM invited the following to become cooperating agencies:

- Boards of commissioners from the five counties in the planning area;
- Four Native American tribes with treaty, trust, or historical ties to the planning area;
- The Governor of the state of Idaho and six state agencies:
 - Idaho Fish and Game Department
 - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Commerce, Tourism Division
- Idaho Department of Agriculture

None of these organizations were able to commit the resources necessary for formal cooperating agency status. However, some have participated less formally, as described later in this section. BLM also invited the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the US Environmental Protection Agency to collaborate in the planning process.

Additionally, the BLM mailed letters inviting the following federal, state, local, and tribal organizations to the five scoping meetings held October 13 through October 25, 2004.

- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Kalispel Tribe
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Benewah County Board of Commissioners
- Bonner County Board of Commissioners
- Boundary County Board of Commissioners
- Kootenai County Board of Commissioners
- Shoshone County Board of Commissioners
- Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kellogg Chamber of Commerce
- Priest River Chamber of Commerce
- Saint Maries Chamber of Commerce
- Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce
- Spokane Chamber of Commerce
- Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce

In addition to public scoping and agency and tribal consultation, the BLM spoke with individuals from the public and met with several local representatives and organizations, including the BLM Coeur d'Alene District Resource Advisory Council (RAC). In September and October 2004, BLM CdA staff either conducted teleconference or personal meetings with the Blue Ribbon Coalition, Bonner County Commissioners, and the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative. Discussions focused on the following issues:

- OHV use and travel management.

- Use of public land on Gold Mountain as a communication site for Bonner County emergency communications.
- Potential for the BLM to provide additional recreational access to Lake Pend Oreille.
- Concerns regarding Sandpoint's municipal watershed and BLM-managed land (21 percent of the watershed area) within the watershed and some of the protection efforts that may be incorporated into the RMP.
- BLM's fuel reduction and wildland-urban interface (WUI) efforts and programs.
- Stewardship projects.
- Land tenure and exchanges.

The BLM sponsored a Community Economic Profile Workshop on January 26, 2005, in Bonner County. The purpose of this workshop was to assist northern Idaho communities to develop economic vision and goals, and then generated ideas for how BLM management of public lands could help achieve these goals. All public, agency, and tribal members were invited. An announcement was posted on the project Web site, and a notice was published in relevant newspapers. A report summarizing the outcomes of the workshop is published on the BLM RMP Web site (www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cda) and is discussed in a separate socioeconomic report prepared by the BLM (BLM 2005b).

All of the organizations that BLM initially invited to participate in the planning process (listed above) were also invited to participate in alternative development. Chapter 2 contains more detailed information on alternative development.

The following describes the BLM's consultation and coordination efforts during the preparation of this draft RMP/EIS. Consultation is an ongoing effort throughout the entire process of developing the final RMP/EIS.

5.3.1 Native American Tribes

To initiate tribal consultation for the CdA RMP planning process, the BLM mailed out three initial letters to each of the four tribes within the planning area (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), as follows:

- On August 17, 2004, the BLM mailed out letters to each of the four tribes within the CdA FO planning area notifying them that the RMP development process had been initiated and inviting them to participate.
- Each of these tribes was later invited to the BLM Planning Concepts Training held in September 2004 via a letter mailed out August 27, 2004.
- The tribes were also provided invitations, dated October 4, 2004, to the five public meetings held October 13 through October 25, 2004, with an enclosed copy of the initial newsletter.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is a participating agency with whom the BLM collaborated in developing the RMP. The BLM CdA District Cultural Resource Specialist met with the representatives of the tribe to discuss the RMP and issues of concern for the tribe.

Prior to public scoping, the BLM Cultural Resource Specialist met with the Cultural Director, Archaeologist, and GIS Specialist of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on November 30, 2004, to offer information on developing the CdA RMP and to solicit input. The tribe's Cultural Director, Mr. Quanah Matheson, had submitted a letter to BLM prior to their meeting. This letter outlined the tribe's concerns regarding the RMP/EIS. The group

discussed the issues and clarified those issues in the letter so the BLM could better address allocations and conflicts within the RMP process. Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Management of a known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and possible buffer zone as it pertains to potential direct effects or visual effects from activities.
- Confidentiality of archeological sites or TCPs.
- Effects on tribal uses as a result of the BLM land tenure program.
- Request for future consultations to commence with a letter to the Tribe asking for any information regarding archeological sites or TCPs that may be affected.
- Impacts to botanical resources that may be important to the Tribe.
- Potential effects on Native American use on BLM lands within the traditional use areas.

5.3.2 Federal and State Agencies

Although the CdA FO invited six Idaho state agencies to participate as cooperating agencies, none of these agencies committed to this formal status. However, the CdA FO has and will continue to involve them in the planning process. Because the US Forest Service manages approximately 5 million acres of land in the CdA FO planning area and is in the process of revising their land use plan, many issues coincide with BLM efforts. For this reason, the agencies have been in close collaboration. As the Public Affairs officer of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF), Ms. Jodi Kramer represented the USFS in the scoping process and attended the BLM's Planning Concepts Training held in Coeur d'Alene on September 14-16, 2004. She provided information and results from the IPNF's own extended scoping process associated with the revision of the forest's land use plan. Some of the overlapping concerns disclosed by the public regarding National Forest lands that could also apply to BLM-administered lands within the CdA FO were recorded in the RMP Scoping Summary Report (BLM 2005).

Some of the overlapping concerns regarding National Forest lands that could also apply to BLM-administered lands within the planning area include the following:

- Noxious weed control measures should be applied equally to all visitors, and the document should make a fair evaluation of all sources and uses that contribute to the noxious weed program.
- In bull trout areas, suggestions were made for permitting helicopter logging only, placing 300-foot buffers around riparian areas, restricting OHVs and snowmobiles to ridges only, and not allowing water crossings or trails on slopes of watersheds.
- Habitat protection measures should be implemented to maintain viable and diverse animal populations, and not just focus on particular managed species.
- Habitat connectivity should be an important component for habitat protection in key wildlife areas.
- Travel plan should assess the need for individual road closures and address user conflicts.

5.3.3 Resource Advisory Council

The BLM Coeur d'Alene Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is made up of 13 citizen members. The purpose of the RAC is to provide northern Idaho citizens with an opportunity to counsel and advise the Coeur

d'Alene and Cottonwood Field Offices in the planning and management of BLM-administered public lands. Membership includes a cross section of Idaho residents from around northern Idaho and currently includes:

- a federal grazing permittee,
- two timber representatives,
- a rights-of-way and transportation representative,
- an OHV recreation representative,
- three representatives of dispersed recreation,
- a representative of wild horse and burro management,
- two elected officials,
- a state employee, and
- an academician.

Vacancies currently exist for an environmental representative and an at-large representative.

RAC members serve without salary and are selected for their ability to provide informed, objective advice on a variety of public land issues, and their commitment to collaboration in seeking solutions to those issues. Members are appointed to serve 3-year terms on a staggered basis. This means that one-third of the RAC is subject to appointment or reappointment each year.

The RAC began their involvement in the RMP/EIS process beginning in December 2004. The RAC formed two subgroups; one to work with CdA FO RMP, and the other to work with Cottonwood FO RMP. The RAC subgroup for CdA FO provided suggestions for the Scoping Report and identification of the planning issues. They were also involved with alternative development (see Chapter 2).

5.4 LIST OF PREPARERS

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office prepared this RMP/EIS (Table 5-1). Tetra Tech, Inc. held primary responsibility for preparing the Executive Summary and Chapters 1-3, and 5, References, and Appendices. BLM held the primary responsibility for preparing Chapter 4 with some technical assistance from Tetra Tech.

Table 5-1 RMP/EIS Preparers

Name	Years of Experience	Role/Responsibility	Education
<i>BLM – Coeur d'Alene Field Office</i>			
Scott Pavey	4	Planning and Environmental Coordinator, RMP Project Manager	MS/Forest Resources BS/Biology
Jeff Casey	16	Fire Use Specialist	BS/Range and Animal Science
Bill Cook	28	Natural Resource Specialist	MS/Forest Resources BS/Biology
LeAnn Eno	16	Botanist	BS/Biology Graduate work Botany and Plant Ecology
Doug Evans	10	Biological Science Technician-Weeds	Graduate Work-Plant Ecology BS/Botany

Table 5-1 RMP/EIS Preparers

Name	Years of Experience	Role/Responsibility	Education
Scott Forssell	17	Realty Specialist	MS/Natural Resource Management BS/Recreation Management
David Fortier	36	Environmental Engineer/Public Health and Safety –Abandoned Mine Lands/Hazardous Materials)	Post Grad Work 3 years MS/Civil Engineering BS/Civil Engineering
Dean Huibregtse	25	Rangeland Management Specialist	BS/Range/Wildlife
Terry Kincaid	33	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BS/Park and Recreation Resources
Howard E. Merriman, Jr.	19	Supervisory GIS Specialist	BS/Industrial Engineering Minors/Business Administration, Economics and Mathematics
Mark Reeves	34	Area Forester	BS/Forest Management
Scott R. Robinson	31	Wildlife Biologist	BS/Wildlife Management
Scott Sanner	14	Mining Engineer	BS/Mining Engineering
David Sisson	27	Archaeologist	MA/Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) BS/Anthropology
Mike Stevenson	18	Hydrologist	BS/Geology
Gregory S. Thorhaug	4	GIS Specialist	BS/Engineering – Geological Sciences
Brad C. Wagner	23	Range Technician/Fuels	BS/Physical Education & History
Cindy Weston	12	Resource Coordinator/Fisheries Biologist	MS/Biology (aquatic emphasis) BS/Biology
Mindy Wright	6	Cartographic Technician	BS/Education/Math GIS certificate
Contractor – Tetra Tech, Inc.			
David Batts	13	Principal-in-Charge, QA/QC	MS/Natural Resource Planning BS/International Development
David Munro	9	Project Director, Vegetation, Riparian and Wetlands, Invasive and Noxious Weeds	MA/Natural Resource Management BA/Psychology
David Kane	19	Project Manager, Wildlife, Special Status Species, Vegetation, Grazing	PhD/Ecology and Conservation Biology (Grasslands) BS/Wildlife Conservation and Management
Summer Adamietz	6	Recreation, Transportation and Travel	MUP/Land Use Planning BS/Geography and Planning/Biology
Wynn Bruce	20	Air Quality	MS/Meteorology

Table 5-1 RMP/EIS Preparers

Name	Years of Experience	Role/Responsibility	Education
Connie Callahan	11	Lands and Realty, QA/QC	JD/Environmental Law BA/Anthropology
Kevin Doyle	19	Cultural Resources, Indian Trust, Paleontological Resources	BA/Sociology Continuing Studies in Anthropology, Historic Preservation, and Cultural Resource Management
Cameo Flood	18	Forests, Forest Projects, Fire	BS/Forestry
Andrew Gentile	5	Renewable Energy	MS/Environmental Management BS/Biochemistry
Derek Holmgren	6	Visual Resources, Special Designations	MS/Environmental Science BA/International Studies BS/Environmental Science
Genevieve Kaiser	14	GIS, Socioeconomics, Renewable Energy	MS/Energy Management BA/Economics GIS Certificate/University of Denver
Erin King, RPA	5	Socioeconomics, Tribal Trust, Cultural Resources	MA/Cultural Anthropology, Public Archaeology BA/Cultural Anthropology
Mike Manka	10	Fisheries, Special Status Fish, Wild and Scenic Rivers	BS/Biological Sciences, Ecology and Systematics
Craig Miller	12	Terrestrial Wildlife, Special Status Terrestrial and Plant Species	MS/Wildlife Biology BS/Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Angie Nelson	9	QA/QC	BA/Biology, English Minor
Stephanie Phippen	6	Soils, Geology, Minerals	MS/Geology/Watershed Science BA/Geology
Holly Prohaska	6	Grazing	MS/Environmental Management BA/Marine Science / Biology
Roger Thomas	25	Public Health and Safety, Hazardous Materials, Abandoned Minelands	MS/Psychology with specialization in Chemical and Environmental Toxicology BA/ Psychology
Randolph Varney	14	Technical Editing	MFA/Writing BA/Technical and Professional Writing
Jon Welge	10	Botany, Wetlands, Rangeland	BAE/ Earth Science BA/Physical Geography
Tom Whitehead, RG, CH	15	Water Resources	MS/Hydrology BS/Geology

ACRONYMS

ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AML	abandoned mine lands
AMM	Abandoned Mines Module
AQRV	air quality related value
AUM	animal unit month
ASQ	annual sale quantity
BAU	bear analysis unit
BHSS	Bunker Hill Superfund Site
BF	board foot
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practices
BMU	bear management unit
CdA	Coeur d'Alene
CdA RMP	Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area
DBH	diameter at breast height
DOI	United States Department of the Interior
EIS	environmental impact statement
ERMA	extensive recreation management area
FAR	functional-at-risk
FHRF	Forest Health and Restoration Fund
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FO	field office
FORVIS	Forest Inventory System
FRCC	fire regime condition class
FS	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
FVS	Forest Vegetation Simulator
HFRA	Healthy Forest Restoration Act
HM	hazardous materials
HMM	hazardous materials management
HMP	habitat management plan
ICBEMP	Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDT	Idaho Department of Transportation
IDSHPO	Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
IMP	Interim Management Policy (for wilderness study areas)
INFISH	Interior Native Fish Strategy
ISDA	Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Acronyms

IPNF	USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest
LAU	lynx analysis unit
MBF	thousand board feet
MFP	Management Framework Plan
MIST	minimum impact suppression tactics
MMBF	million board feet
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRT	National Recreation Trail
NWPS	National Wilderness Preservation System
OHV	off-highway vehicle
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
ORV	outstanding resource value
PFC	proper functioning condition
Planning Area	Coeur d'Alene Field Office RMP Planning Area
RFD	reasonably foreseeable development
RMO	riparian management objective
RMP	resource management plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
S&G	Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
SIP	Idaho State Implementation Plan
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
TCP	tribal cultural property
THPO	tribal historical preservation officer
TMDL	total maximum daily load
US	United States
USC	United States Code
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
VRU	vegetation response unit
WFIP	wildland fire implementation plan
WFSA	wildland fire situation analysis
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSR	Wild and Scenic River
WUI	wildland-urban interface

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

ACQUIRED LANDS. Acquired lands, as distinguished from public lands, are those lands in federal ownership which have been obtained by the Government by purchase, condemnation, or gift, or by exchange for such purchased, condemned or donated lands, or for timber on such lands.

ACTIVITY PLAN. A document that describes management objectives, actions, and projects to implement decisions of the RMP or other planning documents. Usually prepared for one or more resources in a specific area.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT. A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, and evaluating applied strategies, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches that are based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy, strategies, and practices.

ADJACENT. The area outside of a mapped habitat area, but within a zone of influence to the habitat area for which a BLM activity may affect the species. Some activities, such as those that can affect watershed conditions and erosion, can have wide zones of influence for aquatic species. Other activities, such as those that do not affect the suitable habitat but can affect use of that habitat, can have a narrower zone of influence. Thus, this adjacent zone of influence will vary among species and land use activities. The species-specific and land use -specific application of this term will be determined at the local level.

AIR QUALITY CLASSES. Classifications established under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration portion of the Clean Air Act, which limits the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where industrial deterioration would generally be insignificant.

ALLOTMENT. An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public lands but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific, multiple-use management goals in a grazing allotment.

ALLOWABLE CUT. The amount of timber, which can be harvested on an annual or decadal basis consistent with the principle of sustained yield. The allowable cut includes all planned timber harvest volumes exclusive of such products as Christmas trees, branches, and cones.

ALLUVIAL SOIL. A soil developing from recently deposited alluvium and exhibiting essentially no horizon development or modification of the recently deposited materials.

ALLUVIUM. Clay, silt, sand, gravel, or other rock materials transported by moving water. Deposited in comparatively recent geologic time as sorted or semi-sorted sediment in rivers, floodplains, lakes, and shores, and in fans at the base of mountain slopes.

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY. The state of the atmosphere at ground level as defined by the range of measured and/or predicted ambient concentrations of all significant pollutants for all averaging periods of interest.

AMBIENT NOISE. The all-encompassing noise level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

AQUATIC. Living or growing in or on the water.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC). An area established through the planning process as provided in FLPMA where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; or to fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and afford safety from natural hazards.

ATTAINMENT AREA. A geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standard for that specific pollutant.

ATTENUATION. The reduction of sound intensity and energy as a function of distance traveled.

AVOID. To the extent possible, do not implement the action indicated. If the action needs to take place, then add stipulations or take additional steps to minimize impacts. Avoidance is the preferred management approach in the identified habitats for species conservation.

BEAR MANAGEMENT UNITS (BMUS). Recovery zones are divided into Bear Management Units (BMUs) that are used for habitat evaluation and population monitoring.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs). Generally accepted state-of-the-art techniques and procedures used in project-level operations to avoid or minimize impacts to species and their habitats.

BIG GAME. Larger species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, deer, and bighorn sheep.

BIODIVERSITY (BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY). The variety of life and its processes, and the interrelationships within and among various levels of ecological organization. Conservation, protection, and restoration of biological species and genetic diversity are needed to sustain the health of existing biological systems. Federal resource management agencies must examine the implications of management actions and development decisions on regional and local biodiversity.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION. A document prepared by US Fish and Wildlife Service stating their opinion as to whether or not a federal action will likely jeopardize the continued existence or adversely modify the habitat of a listed threatened or endangered species.

BOARD FOOT. The nominal quantity of lumber derived from a piece of rough green lumber 1 inch thick and 1 foot wide by 1 foot long.

CANDIDATE SPECIES. Any species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient information on biological status and threats to propose as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but for which development of a listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities (does not include proposed species).

CATEGORY I TRACTS. Public land tracts that meet one or more of the disposal criteria through public sale as set forth in Section 203 of FLPMA.

CHEMICAL VEGETATION TREATMENT: Application of herbicides to control invasive species/noxious weeds and/or unwanted vegetation. **COLONY (SPALDING'S CATCHFLY-SILENE SPALDINGII).** A group of *S. spaldingii* plants.

COLONY (OCCURRENCES) (WATER HOWELLIA). A group of water howellia plants.

COMMUNAL ROOSTS- A forested area where 6 or more eagles traditionally spend the night within 100 meters of each other.

CONCESSION LEASES. Authorize the operation of recreation-oriented services and facilities by the private sector, on BLM-administered lands, in support of BLM recreation programs. The concessionaire is authorized through a concession lease administered on a regular basis. The lease requires the concessionaire to pay fees to the BLM in exchange for the opportunity to carry out business activity. BLM Handbook H-2930-1, Recreation Permit Administration, provides consistent and explicit direction to supplement the Recreation Permit Administration Manual 2930 and regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2930.

CORE HABITAT (GRIZZLY BEAR). Areas more than .31 miles away from open or gated roads or high intensity human use areas. Generally core habitat is continuous secure blocks of land that have minimal fragmentation by roads, residential, agricultural and commercial areas.

Effective grizzly habitat contains an abundance of many kinds of natural foods, vegetal and animal, so the stochastic changes in the abundance of some food items are offset by the presence and availability of other items. Diversity also provides required resting, denning, and social areas and space.

CRITERIA POLLUTANT. EPA uses six “criteria pollutants” as indicators of air quality, and has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects on human health may occur. These threshold concentrations are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The criteria pollutants are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and lead.

CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE. A BLM definition that applies to elk and mule deer comprised of areas defined by Idaho Department of Fish and Game as “winter concentration areas” and “severe winter range:”

- **Winter Concentration Area:** That part of winter range where densities are at least 200 percent greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten.
- **Severe Winter Range:** That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located when the annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten.

CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS). As a rate of stream flow, a cubic foot of water passing a referenced section in 1 second of time. One cfs flowing for 24 hours will yield 1.983 acre-feet of water.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. Locations of human activity, occupation, or use. Cultural resources include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY. An inventory to assess the potential presence of cultural resources. There are three classes of surveys:

- **Class I.** An existing data survey. This is an inventory of a study area to (1) provide a narrative overview of cultural resources by using existing information, and (2) compile existing cultural resources site record data on which to base the development of the BLM’s site record system.
- **Class II.** A sampling field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of an area so that an estimate can be made of the cultural resources for the entire area.

- **Class III.** An intensive field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites in an area. Upon its completion, no further cultural resources inventory work is normally needed.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS. The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative's incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action.

DEN SITES (GRAY WOLF). In the Northern Rockies, wolf pups are born any time from late March to late April or possibly early May. Some particular dens or denning areas may receive traditional use by a wolf pack over time. Wolves are particularly sensitive to human activity near den sites and may abandon them if disturbed. Section 7 guidance from FWS indicates that activities or projects that occur within 1.6 km (1 mi) of an active wolf den site may negatively affect gray wolves.

DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT (WHITE STURGEON). The designated critical habitat lies within the ordinary high-water lines on each bank, as defined for regulatory purposes, of the Kootenai River from approximately river mile 141.4, below Shorty's Island, to river mile 152.6, above the Highway 95 Bridge at Bonners Ferry.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION (DFC). The condition of BLM resources on a landscape scale that meet management objectives. It is based on ecological, social, and economic considerations during the land planning process. It is usually expressed as ecological status or management status of vegetation (species composition, habitat diversity, and age and size class of species) and desired soil qualities (soil cover, erosion, and compaction).

DIVERSITY. The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

EASEMENT. Right afforded 'a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENT. A section of a river that qualifies for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System through determination that it is free-flowing and with its adjacent land area possessing at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

ENDANGERED SPECIES. A designation under the Endangered Species Act in which an individual species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA). A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives considered, environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). A formal public document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or action and released for comment and review. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the 'proposed project or action.

EXISTING ROUTES. The roads, trails, or ways that are used by motorized vehicles (jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, motorized dirt bikes, etc.), mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts), pedestrians (hikers), and/or equestrians (horseback riders) and are, to the best of BLM's knowledge, in existence at the time of RMP/EIS publication.

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA). Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. Establishes public land policy for management of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. FLPMA specifies several 'key directions for the Bureau, 'notably (1) management be on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield, (2) land use plans be prepared to guide management actions, (3) public lands be managed for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources, (4) public lands be retained in federal ownership, and (5) public participation be utilized in reaching management decisions.

FIELD OFFICE. A geographic portion of a BLM District that is the smallest administrative subdivision in the BLM.

FIRE REGIME CONDITION CLASS (FRCC). A classification of a vegetation communities variance or departure from historic fire conditions. Fire Condition Classes can be: (1) Fire Condition Class 1, representing low departure from historic fire regime; (2) Fire Condition Class 2, representing moderate departure from historic fire regime; or (3) Fire Condition Class 3, representing high departure from historic fire regime.

FOOTPRINT-ACRES. Refers to a single area or acreage within which some intervention, manipulation or treatment is/are performed.

FORAGE. All browse-and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

FUNCTIONAL-AT-RISK. Riparian/wetland areas are classified as functional at-risk when they are in functional condition but an existing soil, water, or vegetation attribute makes them susceptible to degradation.

GRAZING PREFERENCE. The total number of animal unit months of livestock use on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee. Some of the total grazing preference may have been suspended in past administrative actions. That portion of the grazing preference that is not suspended is the active grazing preference.

GRAZING SYSTEM. Scheduled grazing use and non-use of an allotment to reach identified goals or objectives by improving the quality and quantity of vegetation.

HABITAT. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HMP). A 'written and approved activity plan for a geographical area which identifies habitat management activities to be implemented in achieving specific objectives of planning decisions.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL. A substance, pollutant, or contaminant that, due to its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

HEW WOOD. Cut, felled pieces of wood.

HIGH-PRIORITY HABITAT AREA (SPALDING'S CATCHFLY-SILENE SPALDINGII). An area that includes suitable habitat and other BLM lands within 0.5 miles of a population. Other BLM lands identified as essential for recovery efforts may also be included, such as an experimental transplant area.

HIGH-PRIORITY HABITAT AREA (UTE LADIES'-TRESSES ORCHID). An area that includes suitable habitat and other BLM lands within 0.5 miles of a population. Other BLM lands identified as essential for recovery efforts may also be included, such as an experimental transplant area.

HOG FUEL. An unprocessed mix of bark and wood fiber.

IMPACT. The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

IMPAIRMENT. The degree to which a distance of clear visibility is degraded by man-made pollutants.

INVERTEBRATE. An animal lacking a backbone or spinal column.

KEY HABITAT AREAS (GRAY WOLF). Key wolf habitat areas include active den and rendezvous sites and big game crucial winter range.

LAND TREATMENT. Modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatments such as reseeding, brush control (chemical and mechanical), pitting, furrowing, water spreading, and ripping or sub-soiling.

LEASEABLE MINERALS. Those minerals or materials designated as leaseable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium and sodium minerals, and oil and gas. Geothermal resources are also, leaseable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

LENTIC. Pertaining to standing water such as lakes and ponds.

LITHIC SITE. An archaeological site containing debris left from the manufacture, use, or maintenance of flaked stone tools.

LOCATABLE MINERALS. Minerals or materials subject to claim and development under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver, and other materials not subject to lease or sale (some bentonites, limestone, talc, some zeolites, etc.). Whether or not a particular mineral deposit is locatable depends on such factors as quality, quantity, mineability, demand, and marketability. *

LONG-TERM EFFECT. The effect could occur for an extended period after implementation of the alternative. The effect could last several years or more.

MANAGEMENT SITUATIONS 1-5 (GRIZZLY BEAR). Management situations further describe BMUs by defining specific grizzly bear population and habitat conditions and management direction. Management Situation 1 areas are grizzly bear population centers with very high conservation emphasis. Management Situation 5 is the least restrictive. Management situations 1-5 are described in detail in the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines.

MECHANICAL VEGETATION TREATMENT. Includes mowing, chaining, chopping, drill seeding, and cutting vegetation to meet resource objective. Mechanical treatments generally occur in areas where fuel loads or invasive species need to be reduced prior to prescribed fire application; when fire risk to resources is too great to use naturally started wildland fires or prescribed fires; or where opportunities exist for biomass utilization or timber harvest. Examples include:

- Mountain Shrub areas adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface areas.
- Crucial wildlife habitat.
- Aspen/Conifer cover types in which the harvest or thinning of trees may be desirable.

MECHANIZED USES. Equipment that is mechanized, including but not limited to mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, and game carts.

MINERAL ENTRY. Claiming public lands (administered by the BLM) under the Mining Law of 1872 for the purpose of exploiting minerals. May also refer to mineral exploration and development under the mineral leasing laws and the Mineral Sale Act of 1947.

MINERAL MATERIALS. Common varieties of sand, building stone, gravel, clay, moss rock, etc., obtainable under the Minerals Act of 1947, as amended.

MINIMIZE. To reduce to the smallest possible amount, extent, size, or degree as is feasible from a technical or management standpoint.

MINING LAW OF 1872. Provides for claiming and gaining title to locatable minerals on public lands. Also referred to as the “General Mining Laws” or “Mining Laws.”

MITIGATION. Alleviation or lessening of possible adverse effects on a resource by applying appropriate protective measures or adequate scientific study. Mitigation may be achieved by avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction, and compensation.

MODIFY. To “modify” a management activity could have a wide range of site-specific actions, ranging from eliminating the activity, to changing seasonal use, to minor operational changes, to meet the intent of a specific conservation measure or its implementing action.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES OR USES. Vehicles that are motorized, including but not limited to jeeps, all-terrain vehicles (all-terrain vehicles, such as four-wheelers and three-wheelers), and trail motorcycles or dirt bikes.

MULTIPLE-USE. Management of the various surface and subsurface resources so that they are jointly utilized in the manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the public, without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or the quality of the environment.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA). Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP). A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of, 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service.

NATURALNESS. Refers to an area that “generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with, the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable” (Set 2[c] of the Wilderness Act of 1964).

NEED FOR CHANGE TOPICS. Resources and land uses initially identified by the BLM that require new management direction to address current laws, regulations and policies, or to respond to changes in conditions, such as increased recreational demand.

NOXIOUS WEED- Any plant species which when established is or may become destructive and difficult to control by ordinary means. The main differences between a common weed and a noxious weed are: the noxious weed's high capacity for destruction and the extreme difficulty in controlling or eradicating the invading species.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV). A general term referring to any motorized vehicle capable of operating on roads, trails, or designed areas that are not maintained. These include motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies, and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS. Public lands designated for off-highway vehicle use. Lands in the planning area are designated as open, limited, or closed for OHV use.

- **Open.** Designated areas and trails where off-road vehicles may be operated (subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in BLM Manuals 8341 and 8343). For the purposes of the is RMP/EIS, an “open area” is defined as an area where all types of motorized vehicles (jeeps, all-

terrain vehicles, motorized dirt bikes, etc.) and mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts) are allowed to travel freely at all times, anywhere in the area, on roads or cross country, subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR, subparts 8341 and 8342.

- **Limited.** Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles is subject to restrictions such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year, are possible. For the purposes of this RMP/EIS, a “limited area” is an area where motorized and mechanized travel is restricted to designated routes, unless otherwise noted. Off-road, cross-country travel is prohibited in limited areas. Some existing routes may be closed in limited areas.
- **Closed.** Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed. Use may be allowed for other reasons; however such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer. For the purposes of this RMP/EIS, A “closed area” is where motorized and mechanized use is prohibited in all locations at all times.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA. Public lands that are either Congressionally or administratively designated based on their exceptional, rare, or unusual natural characteristics.

OVERSTORY. That portion of a plant community consisting of the taller plants on the site; the forest or woodland canopy.

OZONE (O₃). One of the six “criteria” pollutants for which the U.S. EPA established National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES. The physical remains or other physical evidence of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for correlating and dating rock strata and for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM). One of the six “criteria” pollutants for which the U.S. EPA established National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Particulate matter is defined as two categories, fine particulates, with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers (PM₁₀) or less, and fine particulates with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM_{2.5}).

PASSENGER VEHICLE. Two-wheel-drive, low-clearance vehicles.

PATENT. A grant made to an individual or group conveying fee simple title to selected public lands.

PATENTED CLAIM. A claim on which title has passed from the federal government to the mining claimant under the Mining Law of 1872.

PLANNING AREA. The geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained. The planning area for this RMP is about 96,732 acres of BLM land administered by the Coeur d’Alene Field Office.

PLANNING ISSUES. Concerns, conflicts, and problems with the existing management of public lands. Frequently, issues are based on how land uses affect resources. Some issues are concerned with how land uses can affect other land uses, or how the protection of resources affects land uses.

POINT SOURCE DISTURBANCES (GRIZZLY BEAR). This includes point source disturbances (e.g., helicopter logging, mining, vegetative treatments, etc.) and sources of indirect mortality which brings bears and people into conflict such as road use, land development and recreation.

POPULATION (SPALDING'S CATCHFLY-SILENE SPALDINGII). Refers to all *S. spaldingii* plants that occur within a specific geographic area. A population can be made up scattered plants or one or more colonies, generally within one mile of each other.

POPULATION (UTE LADIES'-TRESSES ORCHID). Refers to all Ute ladies'-tresses plants that occur within a specific geographic area. A population can be made up scattered plants or one or more occurrences.

POPULATION (WATER HOWELLIA). Refers to all water howellia plants that occur within a specific geographic area. A population can be made up scattered plants generally within one mile of each other.

PRESCRIBED FIRE TREATMENTS (PRESCRIBED BURN). A pre-planned, management-ignited fire designed to meet specific resource objectives, such as reducing fuel loads, preparing a site for chemical treatment or seeding, or promoting vegetation regeneration. Prescribed fires are useful for reducing fuel loads and providing or promoting vegetation regeneration. Prescribed fires can be performed anywhere that specific fire prescriptions can be met and fire risks to resources are mitigated after site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. Prescribed fires may be used to reduce undesirable species and fire hazard in Low-elevation Shrub areas, to reduce conifer encroachment into decadent aspen stands and rejuvenate mid-elevation shrub..

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION. Non-motorized and undeveloped types of outdoor recreation.

PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC). Riparian-wetlands function properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows. The functioning condition of these areas is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water and vegetation.

PROPOSED SPECIES. A species proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

PUBLIC LAND. Any land and interest in land (outside of Alaska) owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM.

RAPTOR. Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks, e.g. hawks, owls, vultures, eagles.

RECLAMATION. Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced and in conformity with a predetermined land management plan.

RECOVERY ZONES (GRIZZLY BEAR). The recovery plan defines recovery zones as the area in each grizzly bear ecosystem (i.e. Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak) within which the population and habitat criteria for achievement of recovery will be measured.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS). A land delineation system commonly used by federal land management agencies to address the need for a range of recreational opportunities within the planning area.

RECREATION USE PERMITS. Authorizations for use of developed facilities that meet the fee criteria established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964, as amended or subsequent authority (such as the pilot fee demonstration program). Recreation Use Permits are issued to ensure that US residents receive a fair and equitable return for the use of those facilities to help recover the cost of construction, operation, maintenance, and management of the permits.

RENDEZVOUS SITES (GRAY WOLF). Rendezvous sites-- especially the first one--may receive traditional use by wolf packs. It is also the initial rendezvous site at which wolves appear most sensitive to prolonged or substantial human disturbances. Section 7 guidance from FWS indicates that activities or projects that occur within 1.6 km (1 mi) of an active wolf rendezvous site may negatively affect gray wolves.

REPORTABLE QUANTITY. The quantity of a hazardous material or substance that is considered reportable under CERCLA. Reportable quantities are 1 pound or greater, or an amount as established and listed at 40 CFR 302.4 or under section 111 of the Clean Water Act.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA). A land management status which reserves the area for uses that are compatible with the resource of interest and research for which the area was designated.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP). A land use plan that establishes multiple-use guidelines, and management objectives for a given planning area.

RESTORATION AREAS (FOR NESTING YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS). Areas identified by BLM where the riparian vegetative component is currently not meeting the needs of the species. These areas have the site potential for a multi-tiered, mature riparian forest—at the size described in the definition for suitable habitat—through passive or active management. For example, in some cases a restoration area may be an area where the understory shrub component is missing. In other cases, mature cottonwoods are absent in an area but young cottonwoods and willows are present with the potential to provide suitable habitat in the near future.

RESTORATION AREAS (BALD EAGLES). Areas identified by BLM within 1/2 mile of major water bodies that currently have site potential for riparian forest development to support riparian forest (i.e., cottonwood galleries) through passive or active management. See illustration under the definition of suitable habitat.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table or sub-irrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

RIPARIAN ZONE. An area encompassing riparian and adjacent vegetation.

ROADS. Vehicle routes that have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. (A way maintained strictly by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.)

ROADLESS. Refers to the absence of roads that have been constructed and maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular and continuous use.

ROUTES. A combination of roads, trails, or ways that are used by motorized vehicles (jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, motorized dirt bikes, etc.), mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts), pedestrians (hikers), and/or equestrians (horseback riders).

RUTTING. The result on routes and trails that occurs when the ground is too soft to support the weight of a vehicle and rider. This usually occurs when the ground is wet and soft. Ruts collect rainwater and runoff, keeping the trail wet. Ruts channel water, leading to trail erosion.

SALINITY. Refers to the solids such as sodium chloride (table salt) and alkali metals that are dissolved in water.

SCOPING PROCESS. An early and open public participation process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

SEED BANKS. An artificial seed bank is a collection of plant seeds that are housed in a “bank” that is a steel-reinforced concrete seed vault and is temperature and humidity controlled. Seed storage is a way of providing

an insurance policy for plants if they become extinct in the wild. If plants disappear in the wild, their unique genetics can be resurrected only if seeds have been stored elsewhere.

SEEDING. Seeding is a vegetation treatment that includes the application of grass, forb, or shrub seed, either aerially or from the ground. In areas of gentle terrain, ground applications of seed are often accomplished with a rangeland drill. Seeding allows the establishment of native species or placeholder species and restoration of disturbed areas to a perennial-dominated cover type, thereby decreasing the risk of subsequent invasion by exotic annual grasses. Seeding would be used primarily as a follow-up treatment in areas where disturbance or the previously described treatments have removed exotic, annual grasses and their residue.

SHORT-TERM EFFECT. The effect occurs only during or immediately after implementation of the alternative.

SOLITUDE. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely or secluded place. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude may include size, natural screening, topographic relief, vistas, physiographic variety, and the ability of the user to find a secluded spot.

SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA). BLM administrative units established to direct recreation program priorities, including the allocation of funding and personnel, to those public lands where a commitment has been made to provide specific recreation activity and experience opportunities on a sustained yield basis. These areas usually require a high level of recreation investment and/or management.

SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS. Authorizations that allow for recreational uses of public lands and related waters. Issued as a means to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Commercial Special Recreation Permits also are issued as a mechanism to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES. All listed, proposed, candidate and sensitive species identified under the Endangered Species Act. BLM sensitive species are designated by the State Director under 16 U.S.C. 1536 (a) (2). Sensitive species are managed so they would not need to be listed as proposed, threatened, or endangered species. They are given the same level of protection as candidate species (BLM Manual 6840).

STATIONARY SOURCE. Refers to a stationary source of emissions. PSD permits are required for major new stationary sources of emissions that emit 100 tons or more per year of CO, SO₂, NO₂, O₃, or particulate matter.

SUITABLE RIVER. A river segment found, through administrative study by an appropriate agency, to meet the criteria for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, specified in Section 4(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES. Resources associated with wilderness that contributes to the quality of wilderness areas.

SUSTAINED YIELD. The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

SUITABLE HABITAT (BALD EAGLE). Mature riparian and upland forest communities that currently provide nesting, roosting, and loafing perch sites within 1/2 mile of major water bodies. Other forested areas outside of the 1/2 mile buffer may be identified by BLM as suitable habitat, based on occupancy, on a case-by-case basis. General foraging areas are not included, unless identified as a key foraging area. See illustration below for a sample of how suitable habitat is defined.

SUITABLE HABITAT (SPALDING'S CATCHFLY-SILENE SPALDINGII). Suitable habitat in Idaho includes remaining pieces of Palouse prairie in west-central Idaho and the Canyon Grasslands of the Snake River and

Salmon River in Idaho. This habitat includes open, mesic (moist) grassland communities, sometimes with occasional shrubs (such as snowberry and rose) or conifers (such as ponderosa pine and Douglas fir). These grasslands are comprised of Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass communities. *S. spaldingii* is found at elevations ranging from 1,380 feet to 5,100 feet, usually with deep soils and generally on northerly slopes where soil moisture is relatively higher. Suitable habitat in other states may differ slightly from the Idaho habitat. The definition of suitable habitat may change as new information concerning the species is gathered.

SUITABLE HABITAT (UTE LADIES'-TRESSES ORCHID). This species is limited to mid-elevation (4,300 to 7,000 feet), wetland and riparian habitats. It requires permanent sub-irrigation, and a water table within 18 inches of the ground surface throughout the growing season. It is typically found where floodplains are frequently or severely flooded, or in relict channels and meadows with a permanent water table. The species is well adapted to regular disturbances caused by a number of factors such as water, fire, and moderate livestock grazing. Although Ute ladies'-tresses prefer alluvial deposits containing a high percentage of gravel and sand, they have sometimes been found in clay and highly organic muck soils. Ute ladies'-tresses also primarily grow in areas where the vegetation is not overly dense or overgrown and prefer full to partial sun

Many surveys have been conducted in the upper Snake River region and it now appears that suitable habitat as used for this consultation is limited to areas above the confluence of the Henry's Fork and South Fork of the Snake River. The definition of suitable habitat may change as new information concerning the species is gathered.

SUITABLE HABITAT (WATER HOWELLIA). *Howellia* grows in firm consolidated clay and organic sediments that occur in wetlands associated with ephemeral glacial pothole ponds and former river oxbows. These wetland habitats are filled by spring rains and snowmelt run-off; and depending on temperature and precipitation, exhibit some drying during the growing season. This plant's microhabitats include shallow water, and the edges of deep ponds that are partially surrounded by deciduous or coniferous trees, or a mixed forest. The definition of suitable habitat may change as new information concerning the species is gathered.

SUITABLE HABITAT (WHITE STURGEON). For the purpose of this consultation the Kootenai River is considered suitable habitat.

SUITABLE HABITAT (YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO). This species favors areas along waterways with dense stands of mature cottonwoods and a thick understory of often willows although red-osier dogwood is the common understory shrub in occupied habitat along the upper Snake River. The minimum amount of riparian habitat needed for suitable yellow-billed cuckoo nesting habitat is 300 feet wide and 25 acres. The definition of suitable habitat may change as new information concerning the species is gathered.

SWITCHBACKS. Zig-zags on a trail up or down a hill that are designed to lessen the trail's slope and to minimize erosion.

TERRESTRIAL. Living or growing in or on the land.

THREATENED SPECIES. Any species or significant population of that species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Usually includes only those species that have been recognized and listed as threatened by federal and state governments, but may include species categorized as rare, very rare, or depleted

TIMBER. Standing trees, downed trees, or logs which are capable of being measured in board feet.

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS. Salt, or an aggregate of carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, sulfates, phosphates, and nitrates of calcium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, potassium, and other cations that form salts.

TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES. A cultural property that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with a living community's cultural practices or beliefs that: (a) are rooted in that community's history; and (b) are important in maintaining the community's continuing cultural identity.

TRESPASS. Any unauthorized use of public land.

UNDERSTORY. That portion of a plant community growing underneath the taller plants on the site.

UTILITY CORRIDOR. Tract of land varying in width forming passageway through which various commodities such as oil, gas, and electricity are transported.

VALID EXISTING RIGHTS. Legal interests that attach to a land or mineral estate that cannot be divested from the estate until that interest expires or is relinquished.

VEGETATION MANIPULATION. Planned alteration of vegetation communities through use of mechanical, chemical, seeding and or prescribed fire or Wildland Fire Use to achieve desired resource objectives.

VEGETATION RESPONSE UNIT. The VRUs are broad ecological land units that display unique patterns of habitat type groups (potential vegetation) and terrain.

VEGETATION TREATMENT METHODS. There are five types of vegetation treatments that may be used; Wildland Fire Use, Prescribed Fire Treatments, Chemical, Mechanical, and Seeding.

VEGETATION TYPE. A plant community with immediately distinguishable characteristics based upon and named after the apparent dominant plant species.

VERTEBRATE. An animal having a backbone or spinal column.

VIEWSHED. The panorama from a given viewpoint that encompasses the visual landscape, including everything visible within a 360-degree radius.

VISITOR DAY. A visitor day represents one person using BLM-managed lands for all or part of one day. For example, if one person spent one night camping on public lands, it is counted as two visitor days.

VISUAL RESOURCES. The visible physical features on a landscape, (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structure-s, and other features) that comprise the scenery of the area.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM). The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values, and the management actions taken to achieve the visual resource management objectives.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES. VRM classes identify the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A classification is assigned to public lands based on the guidelines established for scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and visibility.

- **VRM Class I.** This classification preserves the existing characteristic landscape and allows for natural ecological changes only. Includes Congressionally authorized areas (wilderness) and areas approved through the RMP where landscape modification activities should be restricted.
- **VRM Class II.** This classification retains the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements due to management activities should be low and not evident.

- **VRM Class III.** This classification partially retains the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements due to management activities may be moderate and evident.
- **VRM Class IV.** This classification provides for major modifications of the characteristic landscape. The level of change in the basic landscape elements due to management activities can be high. Such activities may dominate the landscape and be the major focus of viewer attention.
- **VRM Class V.** This classification applies to areas where the characteristic landscape has been so disturbed that rehabilitation is needed. Generally considered an interim short-term classification until rehabilitation or enhancement is completed.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY. Visual sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality and existing or proposed visual change.

WATERSHED. Topographical region or area delineated by water draining to a particular watercourse or body of water.

WILDERNESS. An area formally designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS. Identified by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964, namely, size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values such as geological, archaeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA. Public lands that have been inventoried by the BLM, under the authority of Section 603 or Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and found to possess the required wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

WILDFIRE. An unwanted fire that requires suppression.

WILDLAND FIRE. Any fire on the landscape, including a prescribed burn or wildfire.

WILDLAND FIRE USE (WFU). A pre-planned vegetation treatment that involves taking advantage of a naturally-ignited wildland fire in an area where fire would benefit resources. WFU would be conducted in specific areas needing treatment after a site-specific plan and NEPA analysis are completed and only if predetermined prescriptive parameters (e.g., weather/fire behavior) can be met. Until this planning and NEPA analysis are accomplished, wildland fires would be suppressed using an appropriate management response.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI): The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

WINTER RANGE. An Idaho Department of Fish and Game definition that applies to elk and mule deer. That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site-specific period of winter.

WITHDRAWAL. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management of public lands to other federal agencies.

WOLF HABITAT (GRAY WOLF). Wolf habitat includes key habitat features and lands that are seasonally occupied by prey species in sufficient densities to support wolves. Characteristics of high quality wolf habitat include low road densities, low human occurrence, and few sources of disturbance.

WOLF PACK TERRITORY (GRAY WOLF). The recovery plan defines territory as the geographic area an organism defends against others of the same species and/or other species by scent marking, vocalizations, fighting and/or other means. Territories are areas occupied by a wolf pack on a regular basis. Summer territories or home ranges are smaller than winter ranges; annual range up to several hundred sq km, but may be much smaller (<50 sq km).

WOODLANDS. Plant communities in which trees, often small and characteristically short-boled relative to their depths of crown, are present but form only an open canopy, the intervening areas being occupied by lower vegetation, commonly grass. Woodland forests contain major and minor forest products (or any wood fiber) that have, or may have, merchantability.

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